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EDITOR'S LETTER

As baseball nicknames go, it may not flow as elegantly as “The Yankee Clipper” or “The Sultan of Swat,” but Cal “Big Dumper” Raleigh took a cue from DiMaggio and Ruth and dumped a ton of fresh ink into the MLB history books with his unprecedented 2025 season.

In authoring the 10th 60-home run season in MLB history and the first by a switch-hitter, Raleigh shattered the single-season homer record for catchers (48 by Salvador Perez in 2021) in leading the Seattle Mariners to the 2025 AL West crown.

After the dust of his MVP runner-up season had settled, Raleigh sat down with Paul Gutierrez of *Athlon Sports* for an exclusive interview to discuss his history-making exploits. You’ll find Paul’s interview with Raleigh on p. 16 of this year’s annual. One thing we learned: Individual honors are nice, but Raleigh is motivated by winning more than by records or awards, and as long as he keeps hitting bombs, his Mariners are well positioned to challenge for an AL pennant.

Raleigh and the other stars of 2025 delivered a season for the books, one that started in Tokyo in March and ended just after midnight Eastern time in Toronto on Nov. 1 (or the wee hours of Nov. 2, if we’re being pedantic). Sarah Langs of MLB.com hits many of the statistical highlights for us as only Sarah can, compiling the season’s milestones and oddities in her story “Calendar of the Extraordinary” on p. 6.

It’s not at all surprising that Tarik Skubal and Paul Skenes have multiple entries in Sarah’s story. Skubal and Skenes spent 2025 embarrassing the hitters in their respective leagues with their mastery. In his feature story “Pair of Aces” on p. 22, Ryan Fagan shares the secrets of the duo’s dominance.

This season has a lot to live up to. The 2025 World Series was a Fall Classic in every sense of the term, and it set the table for a seven-month feast in 2026, as the Dodgers attempt to defend their crown from some talented, star-laden contenders — including the Blue Jays, whose heartbreak at losing a ninth-inning Game 7 lead will merely fuel a renewed effort at closing the deal. Our team previews are, as always, the heart of this magazine, as our roster of insiders delivers an inside look at each franchise.

In addition to the team reports, we think you’ll also enjoy this year’s fantasy content from our new team of contributors — Rick Wolf, Ed Bunnell, Mike Murphy and Ryan Hallam. It’s an experienced group with plenty of expertise and a demonstrated track record of success. Rick’s SMART system provides the blueprint — check p. 160 for help with deciphering that acronym — while in-depth player analysis from Ed, Mike and Ryan helps you discern whom to target on draft day.

If we’re already talking about fantasy drafts, that means the season isn’t far away. And from our point of view, it can’t get here fast enough.

Enjoy the magazine and the season to come.

Rob Doster

ROB DOSTER, MANAGING EDITOR

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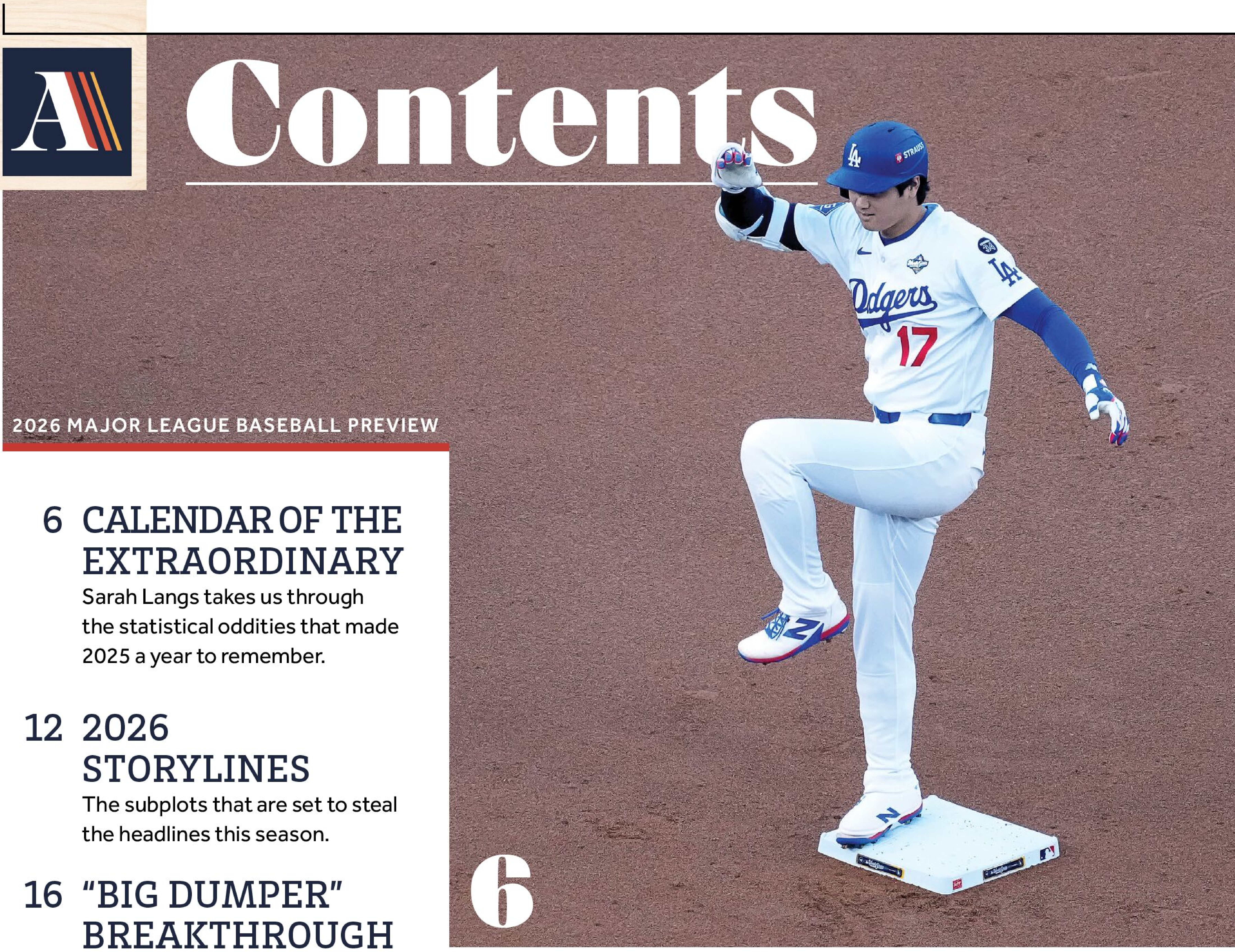

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Calendar of the Extraordinary

BY SARAH LANGS

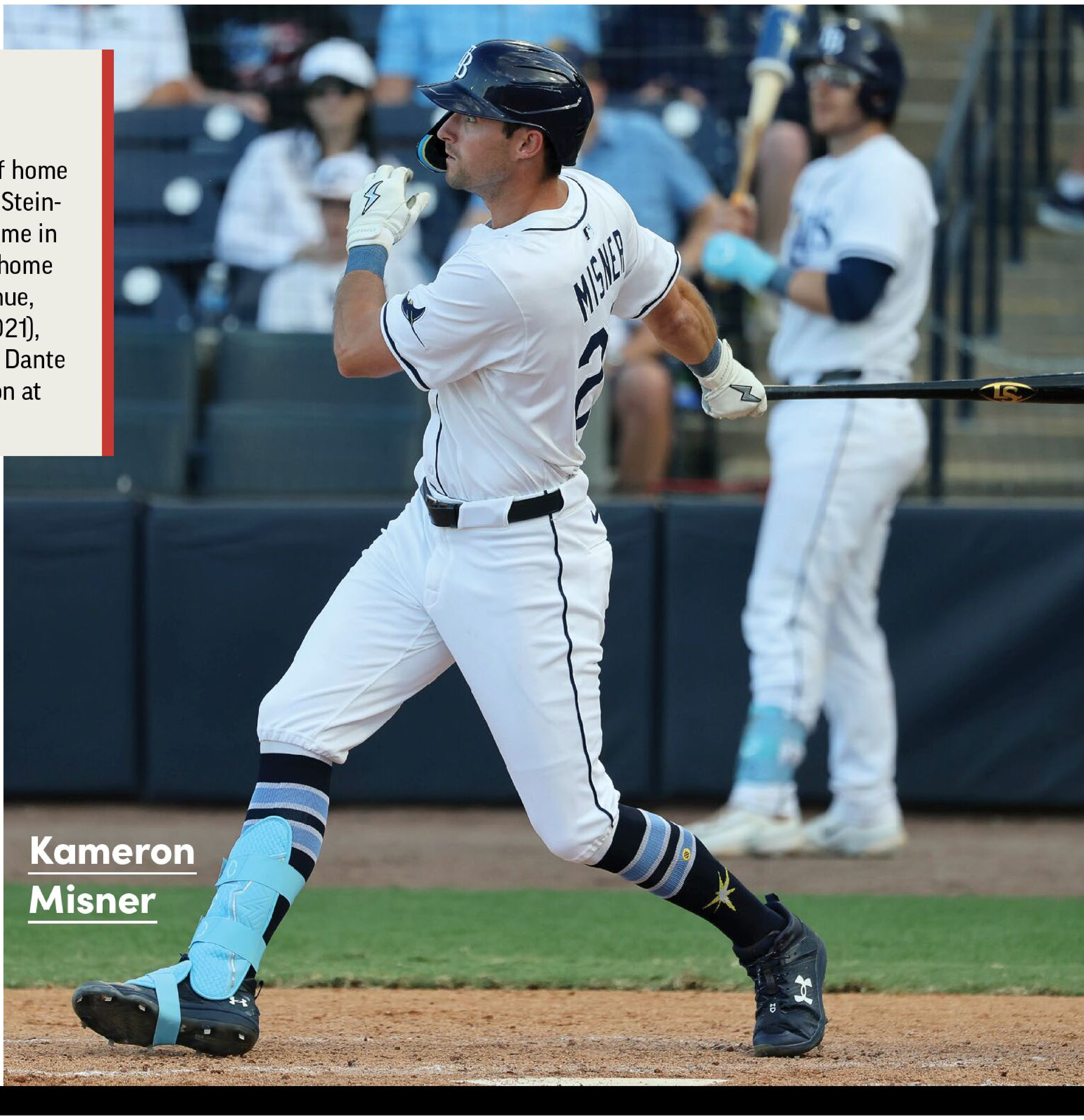
SOURCE FOR SOME OF THIS MATERIAL: ELIAS SPORTS BUREAU AND STATS

March

MARCH 28 – Kameron Misner hits a walk-off home run for the Rays in their first game utilizing Steinbrenner Field as a home park. It's the fifth time in MLB history that there has been a walk-off home run in the first regular-season game at a venue, joining Tim Anderson at Field of Dreams (2021), Ryan Zimmerman at Nationals Park (2008), Dante Bichette at Coors Field (1995) and Bill Bruton at Milwaukee County Stadium (1953).

MARCH 29 — The Yankees become the second team in MLB history to hit a leadoff home run in each of their first two games of a season, joining the 2011 Rangers. Austin Wells hits one on Opening Day, and Paul Goldschmidt does so in the second game, each acting as leadoff hitter for the first time. It's the first time in MLB history that a team has hit a leadoff home run in consecutive games in the first career start in the leadoff position for each batter.

MARCH 30 — The Marlins get their third win of the season, all in walk-off fashion. They become the fifth team to get their first three wins of a season all via walk-off, joining the 2003 Devil Rays, 1998 Mets, 1914 Packers and 1900 Reds.



Kameron Misner

April

APRIL 1 – Eugenio Suárez hits his fifth home run of the season, which is also his fifth hit of any kind on the year. Suárez joins Rob Deer (1992 Tigers) and Rodolfo Castro (2021 Pirates) as the only players whose first five hits of a season were all homers (since 1900).

APRIL 12 – Entering the day, the Dodgers and Padres each have 11 wins, and the Giants have 10 wins. They are the only teams in baseball to have at least 10 wins on the season. It's the first time in the divisional era (since 1969) that the only three teams entering play with at least 10 wins are in the same division.

APRIL 14 – Henry Davis catches Paul Skenes for the first time. Davis, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2021 draft, and Skenes, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2023 draft, are the first-ever battery of No. 1 overall picks.

APRIL 27 – The game after Jarren Duran steals home for the Red Sox, teammate Romy Gonzalez does the same. They're the first team with a steal of home in consecutive games since the Marlins in August 2020. It's the first time the Red Sox have done so in consecutive games within a season in at least the expansion era (1961).

KIM KLEMENT NEITZEL-IMAGN IMAGES

May

MAY 4 – The Royals beat the Orioles, 11-6, in a game that features 10 solo home runs combined. That's tied for the most combined solo home runs in a game in MLB history, with a Diamondbacks-Cubs game on May 20, 2022, and a White Sox-Tigers game on May 28, 1995.

MAY 16 – The Twins win their 12th in a row in a streak that will reach 13. It's the second straight season that the Twins have had a winning streak of at least 12 games. Since 1900, there have been 12 instances of a team winning 12 or more games in a row in consecutive seasons. The Twins are the first to do so since Cleveland won 14 straight in 2016 and had its AL-record 22-game win streak in 2017.

MAY 16 – The Giants beat the A's, 9-1, and Wilmer Flores racks up eight RBIs. That's 10 total runs in the game, eight driven in by Flores' bat. He's the second player to drive in 80% of the runs in a game (minimum 10 total runs) since RBIs became an official stat in 1920. He joins Yogi Berra on July 3, 1957 (eight RBIs in a 10-0 win).

MAY 24 – Max Kepler homers off Mason Miller; the home run has a 101.4 mph exit velocity and comes off a 101.4 mph pitch. It's the first home run during the Statcast era (started in 2015) in which the exit velocity and pitch velocity are 100 mph or greater and match exactly.

MAY 25 – Tarik Skubal throws a shutout on 94 pitches with 13 strikeouts. That's the most strikeouts in a Maddux (SHO on fewer than 100 pitches) since pitch counts have been tracked (1988). The previous high was 12 punchouts, and the previous high in a Maddux of no more than 94 pitches was 10.

Tarik Skubal

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JEFF CURRY-IMAGN IMAGES; BILL STREICHER-IMAGN IMAGES; RICK OSENTOSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

June

JUNE 14 — Shohei Ohtani hits two home runs for the 249th and 250th of his career. Ohtani reaches at least 250 homers and 150 stolen bases in 944 career games, the fewest of any player in MLB history. He surpasses Alex Rodriguez (977 games). And Ohtani has actually batted in only 928 of his games through this point because of his early-career practice of not hitting when pitching.

JUNE 19 — For the second time in four days, Nick Kurtz hits a walk-off home run. At 22 years and 99 days, Kurtz is the youngest player in MLB history with two walk-off homers in a single series. He's also the first player in A's franchise history with two walk-off homers in a single series.

JUNE 20 — Jacob Misiorowski makes his second MLB start and finally allows a hit after beginning his career with 11 straight hitless innings. That's the longest streak to start a career, exclusively as a starter, since 1900.

JUNE 26 – The Cubs' Michael Busch hits his first home run at Busch Stadium in his ninth career game at the venue. Michael is the first Busch to homer at Busch Stadium.

Michael Busch

JUNE 24 — In his 12th career game, Christian Moore hits a game-tying home run in the eighth inning and then hits a walk-off home run in the 10th. He's the second player in MLB history with a multi-homer game including a walk-off home run within his first 12 career games, joining Matt Thaiss on July 28, 2019 — also for the Angels.

July

JULY 19 – After winning All-Star MVP as the swing-off tone-setter, Kyle Schwarber gets off to a hot start in the second half, homering in each of the first two games. Schwarber is the second player to homer in each of his first two games immediately following winning All-Star MVP, joining Bobby Bonds (1973).

JULY 23 – The series after being swept by the White Sox, the Pirates turn the page and sweep the Tigers. The Pirates are the first team to be swept by a team with the worst record in a league and sweep a team with the best record in a league in consecutive series of at least three games, in either order, minimum 80 games into a season, since the 1980 Padres. That Padres team swept the Dodgers, the top NL team (July 12-14), then was swept by the Cardinals, the worst NL team (July 15-17).

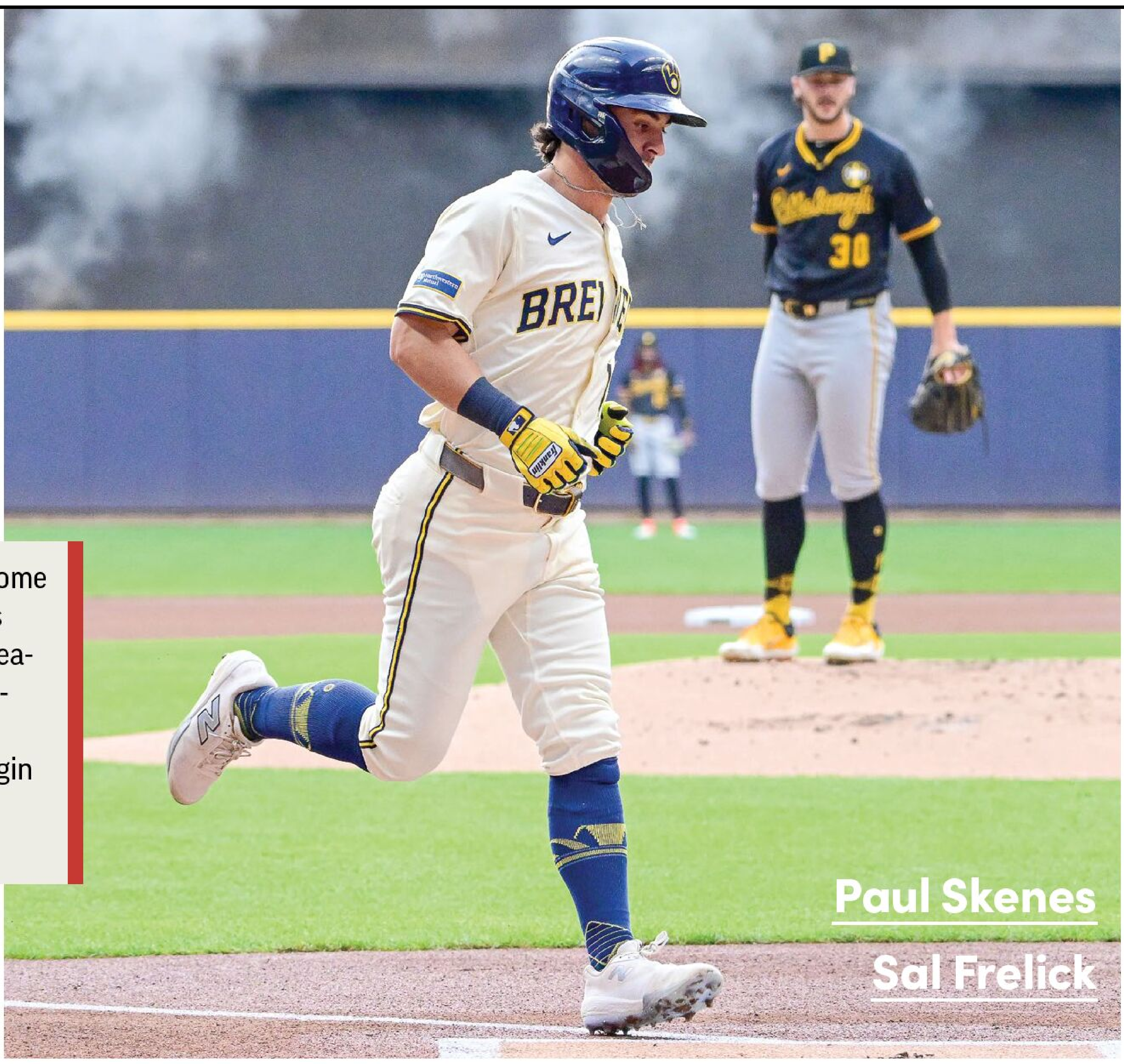
JULY 25 – Nick Kurtz hits four home runs in a game, the second of what will be a record three individual four-homer games in 2025. Kurtz is the first rookie in MLB history with a four-homer game and the first player in A's franchise history with such a game. Kurtz's 19 total bases tie the all-time record (Shawn Green on 5/23/2002, LAD at MIL).

Kyle Schwarber

August

AUGUST 3 — Justin Turner hits the first walk-off home run of his regular-season career. At 40 years and 253 days, Turner is the second-oldest player at the time of his first career regular-season walk-off home run, younger than only Murry Dickson at 41 years and 278 days on May 26, 1958.

AUGUST 12 – Paul Skenes allows a leadoff home run to Sal Frelick. That's the first run Skenes has allowed in the first inning in the 2025 season, ending the second-longest season-opening streak in history at 24 starts. Only Bob Shawkey had more consecutive starts to begin a season without allowing a first-inning run, with 27 straight to start his 1923 campaign.



AUGUST 15 — The Brewers trail the Reds 8-1 early in the game but come back to win their 13th in a row. Their seven-run comeback is the largest ever by a team to extend a win streak to 13 or more games.

AUGUST 28 — Kyle Schwarber becomes the third player to hit four home runs in a game this year, setting a single-season record. Schwarber is the fourth player to have a shot at home run No. 5 in a game, joining Bobby Lowe (1894 in the first-ever four-homer game), Lou Gehrig (1932) and Mike Cameron (2002).

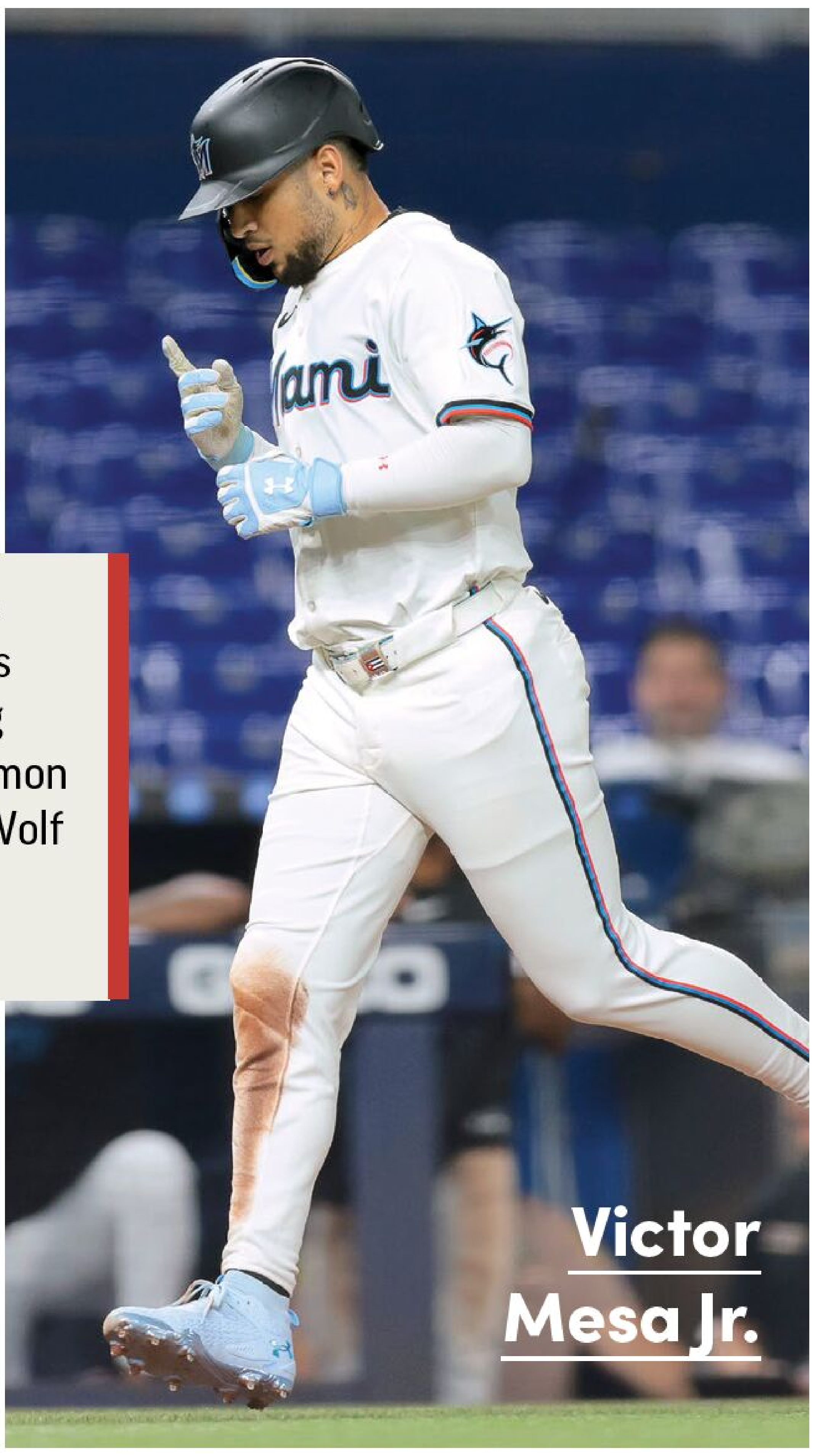
AUGUST 29 — The Mets score 19 runs for Jonah Tong, tied for the second-most by a team whose starting pitcher was making his MLB debut since 1900. The only debutant with more run support was Hod Fenner on Sept. 9, 1921, when the White Sox scored 20.

September

SEPTEMBER 3 — Mason Miller throws an immaculate inning and does so using exclusively his slider. Miller's is the 63rd immaculate inning in the pitch-tracking era (2008). It's the first not to feature a fastball.

SEPTEMBER 8 – Victor Mesa Jr. becomes the seventh player in the Wild Card era to hit his first career home run on his birthday, joining Stephen Cardullo (8/31/2016), Charlie Blackmon (7/1/2011), Ángel Pagán (7/2/2006), Randy Wolf (8/22/2002), Eric Munson (10/3/2001) and Chris Snopek (9/20/1995).

SEPTEMBER 17 — Trent Grisham has 16 home runs, zero doubles and zero triples in his last 50 games. He's the first MLB player to have a 50-game span with at least 15 homers and no other extra-base hits since Mickey Mantle in 1958 (21 HR).



SEPTEMBER 19 — The Royals allow a leadoff home run to George Springer but proceed to win the game 20-1. The 19-run win is tied for the largest by a team to allow a leadoff home run, with the Rangers on April 19, 1996, vs. the Orioles and the Red Sox on Aug. 21, 1986, vs. Cleveland.

SEPTEMBER 20 — The Dodgers win 7-5 over the Giants, taking a lead in the head-to-head all-time series in the regular season, 1,288 wins to 1,287 wins (with 19 ties). This is the first time the Dodgers lead the Giants all-time head-to-head since Aug. 8, 1896, when they led 49-48.

SEPTEMBER 28 — Willy Adames hits his 30th home run of the season. He's the first player with at least 30 home runs for the Giants in a season since Barry Bonds in 2004. The longest active drought without a 30-homer season entering 2025 is over. Every other team had at least six such seasons from 2005-24 and at least one from 2019-24.

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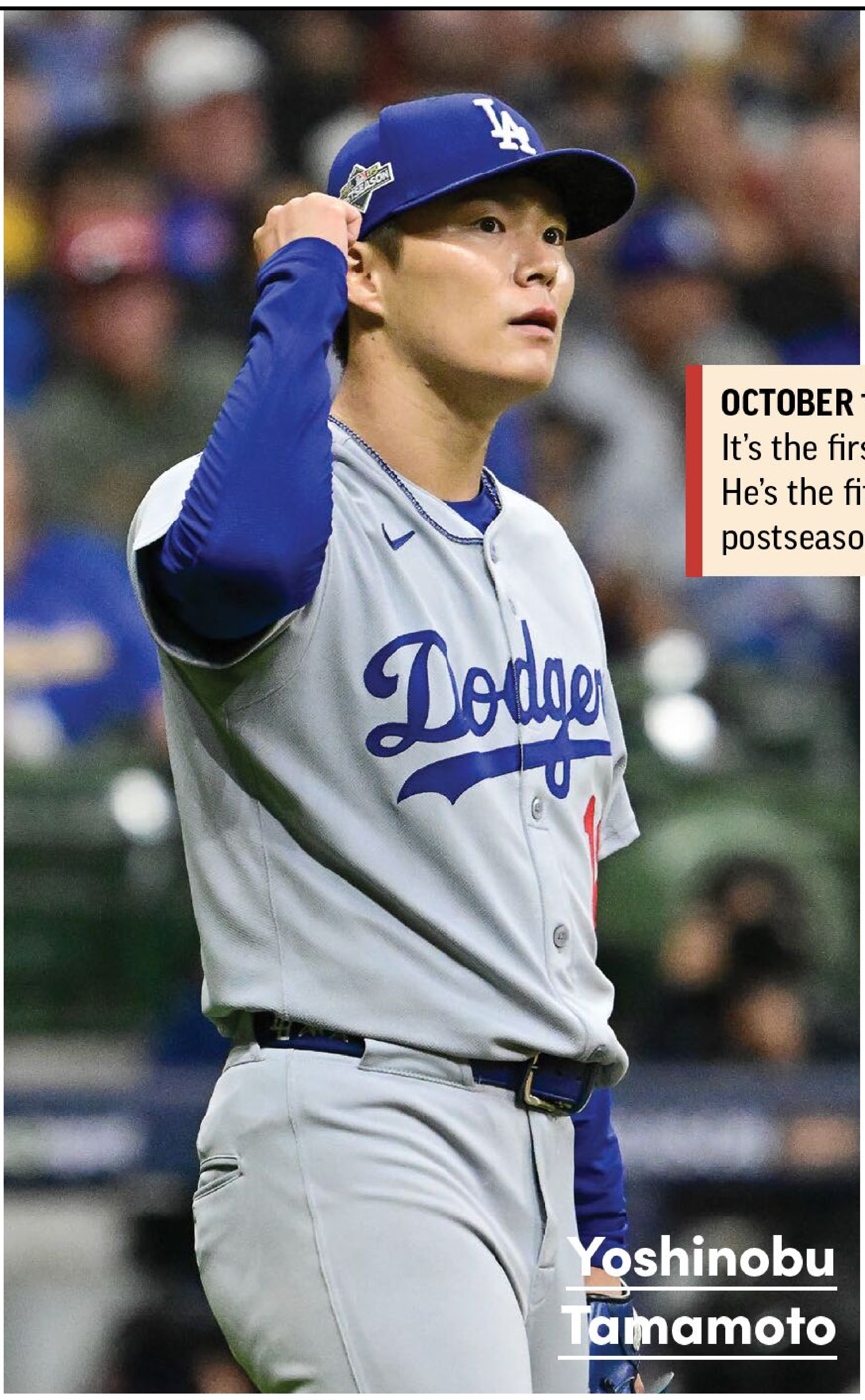

Yoshinobu Yamamoto

October

OCTOBER 12 – The Mariners throw only 100 pitches in a 3-1 win over the Blue Jays, the fewest by a team to win a postseason game since the Dodgers in Game 2 of the 2018 NLDS against the Braves.

OCTOBER 14 – Yoshinobu Yamamoto throws a complete game in Game 2 of the NLCS. It's the first complete game of his MLB career in the regular season or postseason. He's the fifth player in history to throw his first career MLB complete game in the postseason, joining Marco Estrada, Josh Beckett, Livan Hernandez and Jim Beattie.

OCTOBER 16 – Shohei Ohtani hits a leadoff triple in NLCS Game 3, and then Caleb Durbin hits a triple in the top of the second inning. It's the third game in postseason history where each team hit a triple through the first two innings, joining Game 1 of the 2003 NLCS and Game 5 of the 1923 World Series.

OCTOBER 17 – The Mariners turn a 2-3 double play. The last 2-3 double play in the postseason before this, and the only previous 2-3 double play to be a GIDP, was fielded by the Mariners' Dan Wilson to John Olerud on Game 2 of the 2000 ALCS. Wilson is managing this time around.

OCTOBER 29 – Trey Yesavage strikes out all nine batters in the Dodgers' starting lineup, becoming the third pitcher in World Series history to strike out each batter in a starting lineup, joining Randy Johnson in Game 2 of the 2001 World Series and Bob Gibson in Game 1 of the 1968 World Series.

November

NOVEMBER 1 — Game 7 of the World Series is the 2,477th game of 2025, including regular season and postseason. That's five more than in any other year in MLB history.

NOVEMBER 1 – For the sixth straight season, a Will Smith wins a World Series – 2025: C Will Smith (LAD); 2024: C Will Smith (LAD); 2023: LHP Will Smith (TEX); 2022: LHP Will Smith (HOU); 2021: LHP Will Smith (ATL); and 2020: C Will Smith (LAD). The 2025 Will Smith doesn't just win the series; he sets a record with 73 innings caught, the most in World Series history, and he hits the series-winning home run.

NOVEMBER 12 — Paul Skenes and Tarik Skubal, who faced off in the All-Star Game, win Cy Young Awards. It's the second time both All-Star starters went on to win Cy Young that year, joining Roger Clemens and Randy Johnson in 2001.

NOVEMBER 13 – Shohei Ohtani wins yet another unanimous MVP. He's the only player to win the award unanimously more than once, and he has now done so four times. He and Aaron Judge each repeat as MVPs, the first time that both winners had also won the previous year.

Shohei Ohtani

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2026 Storylines

12 SUBPLOTS TO FOLLOW THIS SEASON

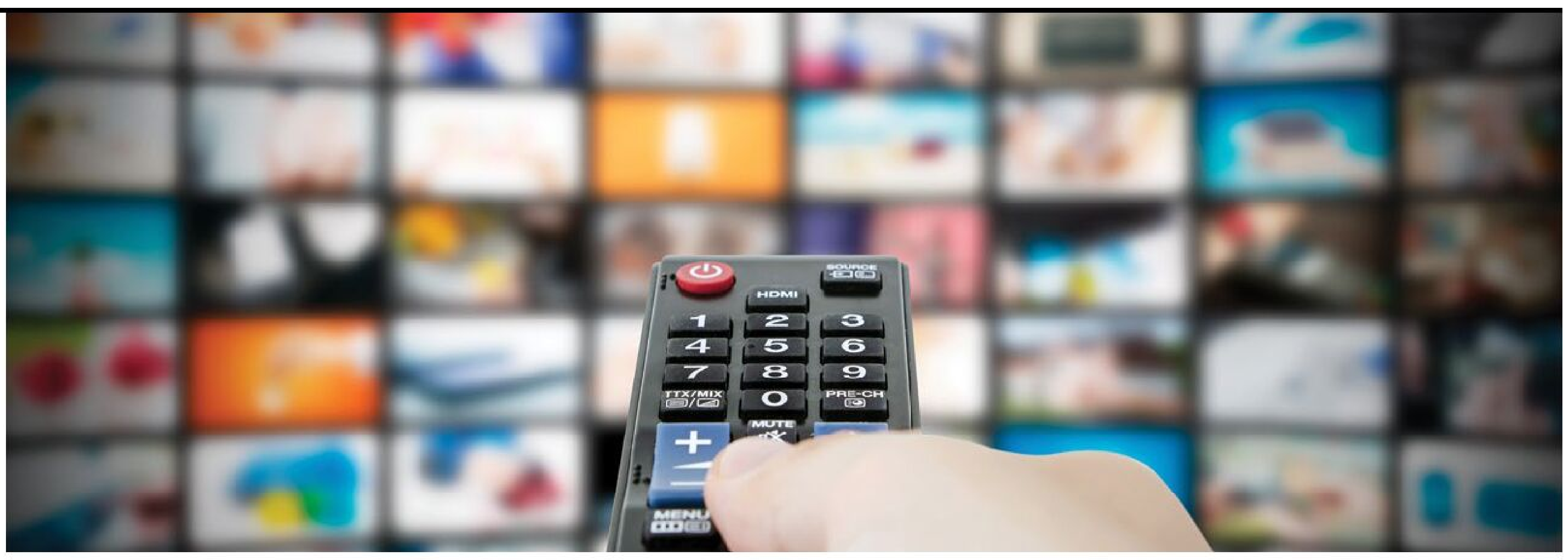
Iron Man Yamamoto

Yoshinobu Yamamoto had already done the improbable before his superhuman effort in the World Series. Sure, it was special to beat the Blue Jays three times, including in relief in Game 7 on zero days' rest. But Yamamoto also made it through 30 starts in the regular season, which no Dodger had done since 2022. The team prefers to limit starters' workloads during the regular season, slow-playing their returns from the typical aches and pains of pitching so they're at their best in October. We saw that especially last season with starters Tyler Glasnow and Blake Snell, who were still strong enough to precede Yamamoto in relief in Game 7. Those pitchers are both five years older than Yamamoto, who at 27 is squarely in his prime and a physical marvel at 5-foot-10, 176 pounds. Still, he did pitch 211 total innings in 2025, and as the Dodgers try to win their third World Series in a row, you have to wonder if they'll try to use Yamamoto a little less in the 2026 regular season. Whenever he's out there, though, he's a must-watch, an electrifying six-pitch dynamo whose 5.9 hits-per-nine-innings ratio was the best in MLB last season. In short, he's always a threat to throw a no-hitter.

UPON FURTHER REVIEW …

Here comes the ABS! We've seen it in the minors, in spring training and even in the All-Star Game. Now, the Automated Ball-Strike challenge system officially becomes part of the game. MLB voted last September to adopt it, making for a fascinating dynamic between technology and strategy. Rather than a fully automated system — with a robo-voice declaring "ball" or "strike" into the plate umpire's earpiece on every pitch a batter takes — the ABS program allows for the batter, pitcher or catcher to issue a challenge by immediately tapping his helmet or cap. Each team will get two challenges (for the first nine innings) and will keep them if the calls are overturned but lose them if the calls are confirmed. Challenges during spring training averaged 13.8 seconds each, so the ABS shouldn't add much time to games. The limited system ensures that catchers' "framing" skills will still have value, but we will also learn which batters and pitchers (and catchers) have an especially keen eye for the strike zone and which do not. Equally intriguing will be how teams use their challenges. Do they save them for high-leverage situations only? Do superstars take precedence over marginal players? Imagine if the Yankees lose a game when Aaron Judge is called out on a pitch that should have been a ball — and the team is out of challenges because a rookie pitcher wanted that 2-1 pitch to lead off the third inning? Whatever happens, the calls will be clear to all: An animated graphic of the pitch crossing the zone will be shown on the stadium video board and the game broadcast.

ADOBE STOCK; OPPOSITE: NICK TURCHIARO-IMAGN IMAGES



NEW TV PLATFORMS

For 36 years, baseball fans could turn to ESPN every Sunday night for the national game of the week. (Sometimes it wasn't even Yankees vs. Red Sox!) That tradition officially ended when MLB announced its new media partners over the offseason. Now, the Sunday night game is moving to NBC, though commitments to the NBA and NFL will push the telecast to Peacock or NBCSN in April, part of May and September. NBC gets a few other goodies (the Dodgers' Opening Day game against the Diamondbacks on March 26, the All-Star Futures Game, the first hour of the MLB Draft) and all four Wild Card Series, which had been broadcast by the ESPN networks. ESPN is still in the game, with distribution rights to the popular MLB.tv and a package of 30 regular-season games. Baseball also struck a deal with Netflix, which gets the World Baseball Classic games in Japan; an Opening Day telecast (Yankees vs. Giants) on March 26; plus the Home Run Derby in July and the Field of Dreams Game in August. That's a lot for fans to juggle in this ever-changing media landscape, so as they say — check your local listings.

SURPRISING SKIPPERS

It takes a while to evaluate the wisdom of a managerial hire. But when teams go as bold as the Giants and Nationals did this offseason, the spotlight will be harsh from Day 1. The Giants replaced veteran skipper Bob Melvin with Tony Vitello, who led the University of Tennessee to the 2024 College World Series title and became the first person ever to go directly from the college ranks to an MLB manager's job with no professional managing experience. The Nationals, meanwhile, hired Rays farm director Blake Butera as their manager. Butera does have experience as a pro manager, serving four years in Tampa Bay's highly regarded system. The catch is that he's just 33, making him the youngest manager in MLB in more than half a century. Butera also played two seasons in the minors for the Rays, so he's clearly familiar with the pro game. And the Nationals desperately need a change — they're 162 games under .500 since winning the World Series in 2019, worse than every other team except the Rockies. The Giants, too, deserve credit for creative thinking. The Dodgers are an NL West juggernaut, and trying to match them conventionally by paying premium prices for Willy Adames, Matt Chapman, Rafael Devers and Jung Hoo Lee has yet to pay off. Risky bets are always intriguing, and the dynamics of the Nats and Giants, under dugout leadership that defies baseball convention, will be fascinating to track.

COLE'S NEW ELBOW

The Yankees returned to the postseason without Gerrit Cole but fell short of the pennant he helped them win in 2024. Cole underwent Tommy John surgery last March, and he started his throwing program in August. Cole said during the offseason that he does not expect to be part of the rotation when the season begins, but it's reasonable to think that he could give the Yankees 15 to 20 starts. If he's the version that won the AL Cy Young Award in 2023 — his last fully healthy season — then Cole, Max Fried and Carlos Rodón would form an especially imposing trio atop the rotation. But the first year after Tommy John surgery isn't always smooth, as another former Cy winner, the Marlins' Sandy Alcantara, showed last season. Eventually, Cole should be as dominant as he once was. But he turns 36 in September, and with a commitment to Cole through 2028, the Yankees will surely bring him along carefully to maximize their $324 million investment.

WBC (and its aftermath)

The last World Baseball Classic ended with the matchup everybody wanted: Shohei Ohtani on the mound for Japan and Mike Trout at the plate for the USA. Ohtani struck out his then-Angels teammate, giving Japan its third championship in five editions of the WBC, with the USA and Dominican Republic winning the other two. This year's event runs from March 6 through the final in Miami on March 17 — just nine days before Opening Day. There's always a fear that players will get injured during the event, or that pitchers will expend too much energy during a time when they'd otherwise be playing more casual games in the Grapefruit or Cactus Leagues. The past three editions have produced at least one major injury that cost the player all or nearly all of the season that followed: the Mets' Edwin Díaz in 2023 (torn patella tendon), the Mariners' Drew Smyly in 2017 (torn UCL) and the Yankees' Mark Teixeira (wrist surgery) in 2013. Of course, injuries occur in spring training games, too, and MLB and the union — plus the more than one million ticket-buyers last time — have agreed that it's a risk worth taking. But be sure to cross your fingers while waving those flags as you cheer for your favorite country in March.

RHONA WISE-USA TODAY SPORTS

WILL TEAMS COPY THE BLUE JAY WAY?

So the Blue Jays didn't win the World Series. But they got to the ninth inning of Game 7 with a lead, so they were sure doing something right. Now, we can't wait to see if their formula spreads throughout the game. It's fairly simple: The Jays get lots and lots of hits. They had the most hits in the majors in 2025, which naturally produced the highest batting average (.265). They still took enough walks to rank first in on-base percentage, too, at .333, and they slugged .427, tied for seventh in MLB. Only the Royals struck out fewer times than the Jays, who banged out a staggering 53 more hits than their opponents in the postseason, when their highly entertaining style of play captivated fans. Strikeouts aren't going away; pitchers are too good, and pitch design is too sophisticated. But MLB hitters did make more contact overall last season, with the fewest strikeouts over a full schedule since 2017. Here's hoping the trend continues, with the Blue Jays leading the way.

WANNA BUY THE PADRES?

The Padres announced in mid-November that ownership was exploring the possibility of selling the team. The previous owner, Peter Seidler, died in late 2023 after spending prodigiously in an attempt to bring San Diego its first championship. That hasn't happened, but the aggressive approach carried out by general manager AJ Preller has made the Padres more popular than ever, with four playoff appearances in the 2020s and a record 3.4 million in attendance last season. The question now is how long the winning will last and whether new leadership will be as committed as the Seidlers. The Padres' new owner, whoever it is, will inherit an array of long-term contracts; for the 2030 season alone, the Padres already have $135 million tied up in five players: Xander Bogaerts, Jake Cronenworth, Manny Machado, Jackson Merrill and Fernando Tatis Jr. Are the Padres in for a severe organizational reset? And if they're not, is it really wise to keep extending core players deep into their 30s? They've been a fascinating franchise under Preller, weathering a few years of anonymity to become a destination for superstars. But that only happens if a generous owner keeps feeding the payroll — and some kind of change is clearly coming.

ROCKIES DIG OUT FROM THE RUBBLE

There's fascination with futility, which means that the Colorado Rockies and their threadbare roster will again be a source of morbid curiosity. Last year's Rockies threatened to be the worst team in history by losing 50 games before winning 10. They recovered for a while, then finished on a 5-25 tumble to wind up 43-119, two losses shy of the record (2024 White Sox). It was enough to convince ownership to finally look outward for a new direction, and in Paul DePodesta, the team certainly has that now. DePodesta — a numbers wiz acolyte whose influence on the Oakland A's was famously chronicled in the book *Moneyball* — will bring an analytical edge to the MLB franchise that has perhaps been the slowest to adapt to modern times. The question is how much of a learning curve DePodesta will need. Evaluating and instructing have come a long way since he last worked in baseball, and his decade as chief strategy officer for the lowly Cleveland Browns is not exactly inspiring. But the Rockies' biggest problem — an insular culture ill-equipped to conquer a unique playing environment — needed to be fixed, and with DePodesta, they'll at least have a fresh approach.

LABOR PAINS

Attendance is up, television viewership is up, international interest is soaring — and yet, the owners and players seem perilously close to labor armageddon when the Collective Bargaining Agreement expires after this season. The reason is the same as always: the salary cap. Owners want it, players don't. The Dodgers won the World Series with a record $415 million payroll. But the $108 million Brewers ranked among the lower half of teams in payroll yet managed to win the most regular-season games. Front office ingenuity will always matter, but money is an impossible factor to ignore: A bottom-15 payroll team hasn't won a championship since the 2015 Royals. There seems to be agreement that more money flowing to the lower-revenue teams could help the disparity, as long as those funds are earmarked for player salaries and not owners' pockets. But the union opposes a salary floor, believing that a floor can only lead to a cap, which has always been a non-starter. Luxury tax penalties clearly don't deter some teams from spending, and while MLB has crowned 16 different champions since 2000 (compared to 14 in the NHL, 13 in the NFL and 12 in the NBA, all of which have salary caps), the perception is that low-spending teams cannot win it all. And if fans have no reason for hope, it's not healthy for the game. Get ready for both sides trying to spin public opinion and a lot of talk about a lockout shortly after the World Series. The issues are complicated, and they're not going away. Let's hope that sanity prevails and the game doesn't go away, either.

THE FULL OHTANI

It's safe to say that Shohei Ohtani really enjoys making history. In 2024, when he couldn't pitch, he decided to inaugurate the 50/50 Club and got there with 54 homers and 59 steals. He followed it up last season with his third MVP award in a row, putting Barry Bonds' record of four consecutive MVPs in his sights for 2026. Ohtani would seem to be a lock as long as he stays healthy because he should have no major restrictions on his pitching this season. Ohtani made 14 regular-season starts last season in his gradual buildup after major elbow surgery, and he finished at full strength, with three six-inning starts in October before opening the Dodgers' pitching parade in Game 7 of the World Series. Ohtani, remember, is not just any pitcher — he's one of the game's elite, with a 39-20 record, a 3.00 ERA in 100 starts and an average of 11.4 strikeouts per nine innings. Before his latest elbow injury, he made 23, 28 and 23 starts for the Angels from 2021-23, and last year he featured the best control of his career, averaging just 1.7 walks per nine in the regular season. Given his elbow history, Ohtani won't overdo it on the mound. But his unprecedented all-around skill set should lead to that fourth consecutive MVP award — and if that's not enough to entertain you, keep an eye on the Yankees' Aaron Judge, who will try for his third in a row in the AL.

Los Angeles
17

Field of Dreams III

After three years away, Major League Baseball is heeding the call of the ghosts who whispered to Kevin Costner way back when. They built it, and the Phillies and Twins will come to Dyersville, Iowa, on Aug. 13 to revive the "Field of Dreams Game," which captivated fans in 2021 and 2022. The pop-up ballpark, across the stalks from the original movie set from 1989, will also host a Triple-A game between the Iowa Cubs and the St. Paul Saints, a Twins affiliate, on Aug. 11. Sure, it's corny (pun intended), but for baseball lovers, the "Field of Dreams Game" is an idyllic summer pairing of fantasy and reality, nestled in the heartland. And if you're not one of the lucky few in the stands — which hold fewer than 8,000 fans — the game will be broadcast on Netflix.

FROM TOP: ROB SCHUMACHER; KAREEM ELGAZZAR/THE ENQUIRER

Rawlings
Franklin

“BIG DUMPER” BREAKTHROUGH

CAL RALEIGH HAS RAISED THE BAR FOR CATCHERS, FOR HIS TEAM AND FOR HIMSELF

BY PAUL GUTIERREZ

◆ **IT'S MID-AFTERNOON ON A MID-NOVEMBER DAY, mere hours before that evening's cocktail-attire MLB Awards show. Cal Raleigh, literally lording over the Las Vegas Strip from his suite on the 51st floor of the Cosmopolitan, much like he figuratively did over all of baseball last summer, can finally exhale and appreciate everything he accomplished in compiling the greatest season by a catcher in big league history, while discussing it all in an exclusive interview with Athlon Sports.**

Shooting an 84 in a three-and-a-half-hour round earlier that morning at the Wynn Golf Club — no Mariners trident necessary — cleared Raleigh's mind, sure. But Seattle's record-setting catcher could control how he performed on the links. What awaited him that evening — Raleigh was a finalist for American League MVP and, ironically enough, his yet-to-be-announced fate had already been determined by the Baseball Writers' Association of America — was out of his hands.

So the low-key Raleigh did what the low-key Raleigh does — he took stock of the moment, controlled what he could control and soaked it all in. His station in the game truly hit him, he said, hours earlier as he sat in a golf cart between holes.

"Just how crazy it is that I even hit all these different milestones," Raleigh reflected, lounging on a couch, a hint of his native North Carolina drawl dripping out. "Getting to 60 [home runs] was just like, you know, insane. The fact that there's only been a couple, a handful of guys that have done it, is something that you never would have thought. You don't really set out to hit that many homers or do those things. I was just kind of along for the ride. I was enjoying the moments. Now, taking a step back, it's a pretty cool thing to look back on and, one day down the road, I'll be even more appreciative of it."

Milestones? Raleigh's 2025 season was chock full of them. It was the stuff of seminal, and sentimental, tug-at-the-heartstrings movies about the national pastime.

"Big Dumper" (more on his iconic nickname later) joined the likes of Big Mac and Slammin' Sammy and All Rise and the Great Bambino in authoring only the 10th 60-homer season in major league history, while becoming only the seventh member of the 60 Home Run Club. The other members: Barry Bonds (73 in 2001), Mark McGwire (70 in 1998; 65 in 1999), Sammy Sosa (66 in 1998; 64 in 2001; 63 in 1999), Aaron Judge (62 in 2022), Roger Maris (61 in 1961) and Babe Ruth (60 in 1927).

Not only did Raleigh smash Mickey Mantle's 64-year-old record for most homers by a switch hitter — The Mick went deep 54 times in 1961 — but he also became the first player in MLB history to hit at least 20 homers from each side of the plate in one season. Plus, Raleigh set a new power mark for catchers, obliterating the 48 homers the Royals' Salvador Perez hit in 2021.

Raleigh tied the MLB record with 11 multi-homer games, equaling Hank Greenberg (1938), Sosa (1998) and Judge (2022).

How locked in was Raleigh? On May 30 against the Twins, he homered off a former high school teammate — Zebby Matthews from Sylva (N.C.) Smoky Mountain High — and a former college teammate, Florida State's Cole Sands.

And Raleigh did it all while leading Seattle to its first American League West title and first American League Championship Series appearance since 2001.

All from a guy whose single-season home run total had risen from 27 to 30 to 34 before last year's signature campaign.

"As far as the power surge, nothing really changed in my swing this year," Raleigh said. "I just think I got smarter as a hitter, and you start understanding situations better, you start understanding pitchers better and then at that point, it's just about going out there and executing your plan. How good can you be between the ears, and how disciplined can you be? It's all about putting together good at-bats each day, pitch after pitch, and letting those things stack up, and I think that's where you see hits."

From a mechanics standpoint, Hall of Famer Edgar Martinez, the Mariners' senior director of hitting strategy, said Raleigh staying "behind the ball" was key.

"Cal knows the league better now," Martinez told MLB.com during the ALCS. "He knows his swing so much better. He makes adjustments. His potential to hit homers has always been there, but now he's a good hitter with power. If the pitcher makes a mistake, he takes advantage of it."

> **"I was just kind of along for the ride. I was enjoying the moments. Now, taking a step back, it's a pretty cool thing to look back on and, one day down the road, I'll be even more appreciative of it.**

STEVEN BISIG-IMAGN IMAGES

THIS PARTICULAR INTERVIEW WITH RALEIGH WAS DRAWING TO A CLOSE, BUT LIKE A HANGING CURVEBALL, THERE WERE A FEW MORE TOPICS TO CRUSH...

ON FORMER RED SOX CAPTAIN JASON VARITEK BEING A ROLE MODEL

"I grew up in that era, the early 2000s, when they finally broke through and won the World Series, and that's about the time where I was able to comprehend what guys do, what position they play, their stats. Jason Varitek was just somebody that was so relatable to me because I was learning to switch-hit at the time, I was learning to catch at the time, and he was on my favorite team and he was somebody that I would see myself being. And then getting older, towards the end of his career, getting the 'C' on his chest and understanding what that meant. Why would I not want to be somebody like this guy who has won multiple World Series, has had a great career?"

ON WHAT GOES INTO FRAMING A PITCH (BASEBALL SAVANT HAD HIM IN THE 93RD PERCENTILE OF CATCHERS IN PITCH FRAMING)

"In the simplest terms, it's just presenting the ball the best you can to the umpire to make him make a decision on whether it's a ball or a strike. There's deception, but there's deception everywhere in the game, with tags and pitching. Everybody's trying to get an edge ... if that's stealing a few strikes that might be balls and keeping strikes strikes, then that's just helping out the guys."

ON HOW HE CAN RAISE HIS BATTING AVERAGE, WITH ANOTHER "BULL DURHAM" REFERENCE

"It's not as far off as people think. It's one extra hit a week. That's four a month. A season is seven months? That's 28 extra hits, and that turns me from a .220 hitter to a .250 hitter, and turns a .250 hitter to a .275, .280 hitter.

FROM TOP: JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-IMAGN IMAGES; MARK J. REBILAS-IMAGN IMAGES

Raleigh, borrowing from a famous Nuke LaLoosh quote from the iconic baseball movie "Bull Durham," announced his presence "with authority" at the All-Star break, becoming the first catcher to win the Home Run Derby and the second member of the Mariners to do so, along with three-time winner and Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr.

And in borrowing a theme from another renowned baseball flick, "Field of Dreams," Raleigh was surrounded by family during the Derby. His father, Todd, was his pitcher, and his 15-year-old brother, Todd Jr., served as catcher.

"Yeah, it was really, really cool," Raleigh said. "A lot of people come up to me to talk to me about how cool it was, and how they have brothers and dads and how much it meant to them and they get to share that moment with them. Getting to do it with them was, honestly, a win. Obviously, I won, and that was amazing, but just getting to do it with them and have them all out there with me and get to share the experience, they got to ride the bus with me in. My brother's talking to [Royals shortstop] Bobby Witt Jr. and a bunch of the other guys, just kind of hanging out, and [Mariners righthander] Bryan Woo, talking shop, so that was a cool moment. But the whole thing was a blur and it was super fun.

"It was my first All-Star experience and getting to share that with them, and them getting to live out that, you get to let your guard down a little bit and you get to enjoy the ride. Rather than, every game is go, go, go. Win, win, win. Keep your head down. But that day, we got to look up a little bit and soak it in and enjoy and reap the benefits of everything that we've done and the hard work between me and my family."

Entering the All-Star break, Raleigh had already set the American League record with 38 first-half home runs, besting the 37 homers Chris Davis and Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson hit in 2013 and 1969, respectively. Griffey, in attendance at Truist Park, told MLB Network he was having "fun" watching Raleigh, but not just in the Derby. Even as Raleigh, the first Mariners catcher to start an All-Star Game, was launching an assault on Griffey's single-season franchise home run record.

"What he's done the first half has been unbelievable," said Griffey, who led the American League with 56 homers in 1997 and '98. "It's mind-boggling. But, to him, he would probably take 15 home runs away to have a 10-game lead at the end of the year. I mean, that's just who he is. For him to juggle a pitching staff and go out and hit is pretty impressive."

Junior was prescient. The Mariners were in second place at the All-Star break, five games behind the Astros, but as Raleigh got hot, so, too, did Seattle.

By Aug. 12, the Mariners had caught the Astros, and after falling behind by four games on Sept. 3, they were again tied on Sept. 18. A three-game sweep of the Astros in Houston ensued — Raleigh hit two homers in the series — followed by a three-game sweep of the Rockies. And after the opener of that series, a 4-3 victory that clinched a playoff berth for the Mariners, Raleigh took the mic at T-Mobile Park and quoted yet another classic baseball movie, "Major League," telling the crowd, "Might as well go win the whole f—ing thing." The fans erupted, and it became a rallying cry in the Pacific Northwest.

Raleigh's a baseball romantic, after all. One night later, on Sept. 24, when the Mariners clinched the AL West, Raleigh put a bow on things with his 59th and 60th home runs, in the first and eighth innings, respectively. Cue the triumphant theme from "The Natural."

It's not ... going out there and changing your swing, doing a big massive overhaul of mechanics. It's more, can I find a way to crush and have good at-bats and give myself a chance? Rather than go up there trying to chase numbers, it's going up there and dominating the approach and your mindset, more so than the actual swing path itself [because] you can have four great at-bats, hit it hard and go 0-for-4. Or vice versa."

AND, AS PROMISED, ON HIS BIG DUMPER NICKNAME, WHICH HIS MOM STEPHANIE SAID "STINKS" ON A MARINERS BROADCAST

"I've always been, I wouldn't say teased, but joked about, because I've got a big butt, or whatever. It started when I first got called up. But it really wasn't a thing because I wasn't very good early on, and then once I started playing better, establishing myself, it kind of took off. It's fun. It's kind of what makes baseball appealing. Even this last Halloween, people being Big Dumper and they get the jersey and they stuff their pants with pillowcases. It's great."

Lest you think the 6-feet-2, 235-pound Big Dumper was a one-dimensional, heavy-legged, slow-twitch power hitter who caught lightning in a bottle in his fourth full big-league season, Raleigh also legged out 24 doubles and stole 14 bases.

TRUIST PARK
AL
RALEIGH
CHAMPION
NAPA
NORTHSIDE
COOLRAY
ORIS
DERBY CHAMP

BRETT DAVIS-IMAGN IMAGES

RALEIGH ON THE 2025 HOME RUN DERBY:

> **… that day, we got to look up a little bit and soak it in and enjoy and reap the benefits of everything that we've done and the hard work between me and my family.**

"It was one of those situations where it's in reach, but at the same time, we were still chasing bigger things with the playoffs and clinching a division," Raleigh said. "Something we hadn't done in [24] years. It just so happened to be the same day. But you know yourself as a baseball player — if I go out there and try to hit the home runs, then it's not going to work. It's about having that mental discipline that, going up to the plate, knowing this is what I need to achieve and then whatever happens, happens. I know I'm capable; I've hit so many home runs up to this point in my life. It's more about, can I put everything else aside? Can I be able to have that kind of focus every at-bat?"

Raleigh hit a career-high .247, though he wants to move that number up, and his slash line of .247/.359/.589 was also a career best, as was his .948 OPS. He led the American League in runs batted in (125) and was second in slugging percentage (.589), walks (97), extra-base hits (84), total bases (351), runs scored (110) and fWAR (9.1) while collecting his first Silver Slugger.

The heroics continued for Raleigh in the postseason, where the Mariners beat the Tigers in five games of a division series before taking the Blue Jays the distance in an emotionally draining ALCS. The Mariners held a 3-1 lead entering the bottom of the seventh inning of Game 7 before falling, 4-3.

Raleigh, who batted .304 with five home runs and eight RBIs in the playoffs, took the loss especially hard. Standing at his locker in the bowels of Toronto's Rogers Centre, tears in his eyes, Raleigh said the season was a "failure."

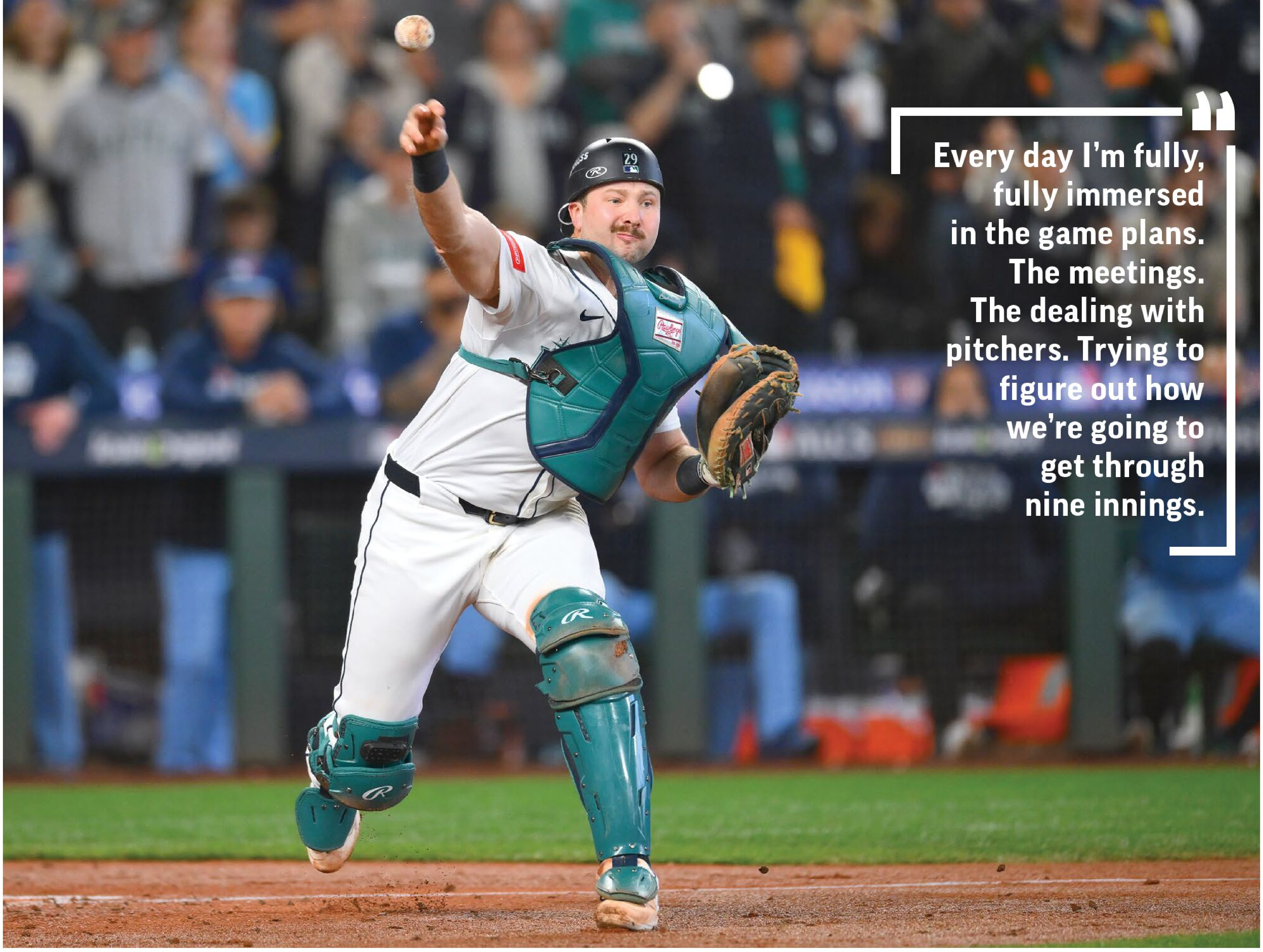
Three-plus weeks later, Raleigh, who turned 29 on Nov. 26, was more introspective.

"Maybe I was a little harsh in that sense, and I said I was proud of the guys and I was proud of what we did. I am. It was a great season," he said. "We played well. We'd been the furthest we'd ever gone in our organization's history, and we had a lot of positives in the year. But at the end of the day, it is, technically, a failure. Maybe that's the harsh way to put it. You could say it other ways and maybe sugarcoat it a little better. But I've never been one to sugarcoat things.

"But like I said in that interview as well, the expectations here are higher than they ever have been, and that's what we want — to set the standard. We've got to that point now, especially after this year, that we want to be that team that's there every year, competing for a World Series, and creating a team that can win a few World Series."

That a cenacle of sportswriters had Raleigh finishing second to Judge for AL MVP in one of the closest votes in recent memory — Judge, who batted .331 with 53 homers, 114 RBIs and a 1.144 OPS, received 17 of 30 first-place votes and a total of 355 points, while Raleigh got the other 13 first-place votes and 335 points — did nothing to diminish Raleigh's season.

Not with the likes of Griffey, as well as the last catcher to win a league MVP, stressing what made



STEVEN BISIG-IMAGN IMAGES

> Every day I'm fully, fully immersed in the game plans. The meetings. The dealing with pitchers. Trying to figure out how we're going to get through nine innings.

Raleigh's at-the-plate exploits all the more impressive: the fact that he did his work while donning the tools of ignorance. A Gold Glove and Platinum Glove winner in 2024, Raleigh caught 121 games and 1,072 innings (third-most in the big leagues) last season and was not charged with a passed ball.

"To do what he's done behind the plate, to lead the staff, the grind of being behind the plate [and] to hit 60 homers and to do it in meaningful games down the stretch, I think it's immeasurable, his value to that team," Buster Posey, the 2012 National League MVP, told KNBR radio. "Just truly a season for the ages."

As Raleigh put it, the daily toll of catching in the midst of a playoff chase actually helped him "compartmentalize" as a hitter closing in on that magic number of 60 homers.

"Every day I'm fully, fully immersed in the game plans," he said. "The meetings. The dealing with pitchers. Trying to figure out how we're going to get through nine innings. It all distracted me from stuff that was going on. It wasn't 'all eyes on me,' because of this situation. We were playing important games. We were in the hunt."

Raleigh was far from overlooked. He was feted as the MLBPA Players' Choice Player of the Year as well as its AL Outstanding Player, honors voted on uniquely by active players. *The Sporting News* also named him its Player of the Year.

Indeed, Raleigh has raised the bar not only for his team, but for himself.

"Going forward, it's winning a World Series," he said. "Continuing to play the best that I can, to my ability. And if that involves more awards, then great. But you don't really play this game for awards; you play to win. You play to create a legacy. Not only through your team, but the fans and the community and the city and, obviously, through your teammates and coaches.

"If you look at it through that lens, it makes it a lot easier to go out every day and play and put on that uniform. That's what drives me. As well as my family. It's going out and getting a World Series for Seattle because we were so close [last] year. We took a good step forward, but ultimately…"

Raleigh's voice began to trail off. It was time to swap out his golf gear and suit up for the MLB Awards show.

"Being here, getting to do this is fun," he continued. "It's awesome getting recognized. But at the same time, ultimately knowing what the end goal is and how fun that is down the stretch, that's it."

Paul Gutierrez is a freelance sportswriter who has covered Major League Baseball for the Los Angeles Times, the Sacramento Bee, CSN Bay Area, ESPN and Baseball America. Based in the San Francisco Bay Area and Las Vegas, he has served as a BBWAA chapter chair and voted for the National Baseball Hall of Fame for more than a decade.

PAIR OF *Aces*

TARIK SKUBAL AND **PAUL SKENES** ARE DOMINATING THEIR RESPECTIVE LEAGUES

BY RYAN FAGAN

The individual dominance we are watching in baseball right now is astounding, and we're not just talking about Shohei Ohtani and Aaron Judge winning what feels like all of the Most Valuable Player awards so far in the 2020s.

Two starting pitchers — Tarik Skubal and Paul Skenes — have put up historic performances over the past two seasons, and they don't appear to be slowing down anytime soon.

Skubal hasn't just won the American League Cy Young Award twice in a row, becoming the first AL pitcher to go back-to-back since Boston's Pedro Martinez in 1999-2000. He's also received 56 of the possible 60 first-place votes in that span.

The lefty with a fastball that sits 97-98 mph and touches triple digits has paced the AL in ERA two years in a row (2.39 and 2.21). He's led the AL in pitching WAR — by both FanGraphs (6.0 and 6.6) and Baseball Reference (6.4 and 6.5) formulas — two years in a row. He's led the AL in multiple advanced metrics two years in a row, including ERA+ (174 and 187) and FIP (2.49 and 2.45).

Meanwhile, over in the National League, Skenes suffered through a horrendous sophomore slump, watching his ERA skyrocket from 1.96 in his brilliant Rookie of the Year campaign to 1.97 in his second year in the bigs. The Pirates are very concerned.

OK, not really. Truthfully, it's hard to imagine a pitcher with as much hype as Skenes had heaped on him — all deserved, by the way — coming through in the way he has his first two years in the majors.

In the past 50 years, only two other starting pitchers have posted back-to-back seasons of at least 130 innings with an ERA under 2.00. Hall of Famer Greg Maddux turned the trick in 1994 (1.56) and '95 (1.63), while future Hall of Famer Clayton Kershaw did so in 2013 (1.83) and '14 (1.77). Before that, you have to go back to the legendary Sandy Koufax in 1963-64.

Skenes had 14 starts last year in which he didn't allow an earned run in at least five full innings. Skubal had a dozen of those. Skenes had 13 starts of at least five innings where he allowed three or fewer hits. Skubal had 10 starts with at least 10 strikeouts.

Both aces have entered that stratosphere where, if they're healthy, they'll be overwhelming favorites to win the Cy Young Award every year for the foreseeable future.

> THESE GUYS ARE THE EPITOME OF WHAT WE NEED IN THE LEAGUE.
>
> — MLB NETWORK ANALYST RYAN DEMPSTER

"It's just so great for Major League Baseball to have them as the top echelon guys in each league, respectively, just fabulous," says Ryan Dempster, a two-time All-Star pitcher who works as an analyst for MLB Network. "I think it's vital to the longevity and success of our game. And not only do we have these guys who are the elite of the elite, but their work ethic, the way they give back to this game and how they are with the young fans of this game? I think it's just as important as the product that they're putting out on the field every fifth day. These guys are the epitome of what we need in the league."

As Dempster notes, both have taken their own unique paths to the Cy Young Award, and that's part of what makes their stories so great.

Skubal wasn't drafted out of high school, and he didn't exactly receive a plethora of major-college offers after his prep years finished, either. He enrolled at Seattle University and, after missing a year with Tommy John surgery, was drafted following his junior year, in the ninth round of the 2018 MLB Draft.

"He's the poster child for 'everybody's timeline is different,'" Dempster says. "We get so caught up in Perfect Game tournaments, and 'This kid's throwing this at 17 years old,' or 'This kid's the No. 1 recruit out of here.' But here's a guy who gets his only D-I offer at Seattle University, and he goes there, and he wasn't great right away. To see his potential come to fruition on the most epic levels, I love his story so much."

Emily Waldon has covered the Detroit Tigers minor leagues/prospect scene as intensively as anyone over the past decade, including currently as *Baseball America*'s prospect writer for the Tigers. When Detroit drafted Skubal, she started asking scouts for their insights on the lefty. The common thought was that he had potential but lots of red flags — particularly regarding his durability after the TJ surgery — and the scouts put his projected ceiling as a No. 3 starter.

"Nobody ever projected him to be who he is now," she says with a laugh, "but two Cy Youngs later, here we are."

Skubal flew through three levels in his draft year and then posted a 2.58 ERA in 15 starts for High-A Lakeland to start 2019. It was his dominance after his promotion to Double-A, though, that really caught everyone's attention. In a small nine-game sample size, Skubal had a 2.13 ERA with 82 strikeouts in 42.1 innings — an incredible 17.4 strikeouts per nine. For context, only one pitcher in MLB history with at least 42 innings has had a higher K/9 ratio for a season: Aroldis Chapman, with 17.7 in 2014.

"I remember scouts reaching out to me and saying, 'This is not who I saw in college. This is not the

OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT: LON HORWEDEL-IMAGN IMAGES; CHARLES LECLAIRE-IMAGN IMAGES

guy that I saw back then,'" Waldon says. "The Eastern League is very challenging for pitchers, with very disciplined hitters that are going to work deeper into counts. So when he started putting up dominant numbers at that level, that's really what opened people's eyes."

Skubal's early big-league journey was bumpy at times, too. He made debut during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, then had a solid 2021 campaign. But his breakthrough 2022 season — he had a 3.52 ERA/2.96 FIP in 21 starts — ended when he had to have flexor tendon surgery in August, and the recovery cost him half of the 2023 season, too.

Skubal, though, was undaunted.

"He's been very transparent all throughout his career about the struggles he had early on," Waldon says. "But as we all saw in the Cleveland game in the playoffs last year, he's a bulldog. That's always been his mentality. He believed he had the ability, but the question was, 'How do I get access to this regularly?' Those two Cy Youngs happened when he realized what he was capable of, and when he pitched with a little chip on his shoulder."

Life had taught him how to get back up.

"Think about how many times he's been punched in the face, going back to not getting any big-time colleges to look at him, then he goes to Seattle and constantly has had to prove himself," Dempster says. "So when he's coming back from an injury, or when he gets in the first inning and gives up a homer, or gets in a situation where he has the bases loaded and one out, how many times does he get the big double play or the back-to-back strikeouts? It's almost like that makes it fun for him. He loves his back against the wall."

Skubal loves the big stage, too. He's made six playoff starts over the past two seasons, with a 2.04 ERA and games of 13 and 14 strikeouts. In that playoff game against the Guardians last fall, he gave up a 1-0 lead in the fourth inning on a walk and a pair of weak infield hits. He responded by striking out eight of the next 11 Cleveland hitters as the Tigers won, 2-1.

"He's a strategist. This is a guy who likes to do crossword puzzles in his spare time," Waldon says. "He's playing that mental game of chess, thinking, 'If I make this move, what is my opposition capable of responding with?' When you watch Tarik pitch, you can see the wheels turning when he's on the mound. You can see him kind of analyzing everything. He's very intelligent, extremely competitive. Does not like losing — we've all seen that. He's learned what he's capable of, but he also does his homework, and he just really likes to win."

And, of course, he has filthy stuff, too. That doesn't hurt.

"To me, his changeup is the key to his success, which is funny because he throws 100," Dempster says. "The same arm speed on his changeup is what sells it. I mean, you can mirror image that pitch and his fastball — and I'm sure teams do — and it looks exactly the same. And his confidence to throw it in any situation is impressive. We can fall in love with velocity, but at the end of the day, hitting is timing, and if you can disrupt timing as a pitcher, you're going to be successful. If you just sit there and pump 100 every time, those hitters will tee off on that, but he just has an innate ability and a knack for knowing when a guy is selling out for that inside fastball and all of a sudden, boop, that changeup."

> NOBODY EVER PROJECTED HIM TO BE WHO HE IS NOW, BUT TWO CY YOUNGS LATER, HERE WE ARE.
>
> — *BASEBALL AMERICA'S* PROSPECT WRITER EMILY WALDON

Skenes' entry to pro ball, as the No. 1 overall pick of the 2023 MLB Draft by the Pirates, was quite a bit different from Skubal's, but his path wasn't linear, either. Skenes also wasn't drafted out of high school — his longstanding commitment to the Air Force Academy was part of that equation — and he started his college career as a two-way player. His primary role as a freshman was as a catcher/first baseman, while closing out games on the mound. He was a catcher/starting pitcher/designated hitter as a sophomore, and it wasn't until he transferred to LSU for his junior year that he focused fully on pitching.

That change — and his embrace of that switch — helped make Skenes into a dominant mound presence.

"He mastered what he needed to do from the last pitch of, let's say, the Friday start to the first pitch of the next Friday start," LSU head coach Jay Johnson said days before the 2023 draft. "He mastered his schedule of day-after, blending

JUNFU HAN

all the things in: weightlifting, massage, recovery, reboot to throwing midweek bullpen, scouting report, preparation. This guy is the most elite I've ever seen at that. His self-discipline from coming from the United States Air Force Academy bled into that process, and nobody will ever be better than he was.”

That work-hard, work-smart approach hasn't changed with his big-league success.

“His ever-evolving repertoire and desire to be great is impressive,” Dempster says. “There are guys who are searching for greatness or trying to find it. He knows he has it, but he's not content with that. He's continuously trying to evolve. You talk about the multiple pitches and how he changes arm angles, and how he's always trying to do something to be better. It would be easy to be content in the situation where you have a 1.96 ERA, to think ‘OK, I am who I am.’ But he's like, ‘OK, how do I get better? And how am I going to be better than that?’ His work ethic is second to none. This dude is a bona fide ace.”

CHARLES LECLAIRE-IMAGN IMAGES

> ”
>
> HIS WORK ETHIC IS SECOND TO NONE. THIS DUDE IS A BONA FIDE ACE.
>
> – MLB NETWORK ANALYST RYAN DEMPSTER

It's rather mind-boggling to think of Skenes' success the past few years. He transferred to LSU for one season of college baseball. All he did was post a 1.69 ERA with 209 strikeouts in 122.2 innings while leading the Tigers to the College World Series title. He went with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft — one spot ahead of LSU teammates Dylan Crews — and then was scored on in only one of his five brief outings as the Pirates wanted to give him a quick taste of pro ball.

The organization started him at Triple-A Indianapolis to open the 2024 season, but after seven starts — he had a 0.99 ERA with 45 strikeouts in 27.1 innings — they had no choice but to give him the call to the majors. In his second MLB start, Skenes threw six hitless innings, striking out 11 Cubs with just one walk allowed.

Storybook stuff right there.

“I don't think people can really wrap their head around the demands on what's asked of him continuously throughout the season, whether it's interview requests or all that stuff that goes into being elite like he is,” Dempster says. “He gets it. He has an immense amount of respect for the guys that played around the league before him, the guys that were successful before him. He's got a humbleness about him, and that's kind of unique for a guy in his position. But he wants to absolutely dominate you.”

Dempster had an outstanding career, too, but he wouldn't mind the opportunity to retroactively apply a lesson he's learned from watching Skenes.

“I knew I was good, and I knew I could get guys out, and there were times in my career where I was dominant, but I never thought I had the ability to maybe embarrass hitters the way Paul Skenes does,” he says. “And I feel like when he's pitching, that's what he wants to do. He wants to make you look bad, and he has the ability to do it.

In 2025, Skenes used seven different pitches at least 4.8% of the time, according to Baseball Savant: four-seam fastball, sweeper, split-finger — his famous/infamous “splinker” — changeup, sinker, slider and curveball.

“What's so impressive about Skenes is that he has 100 (mph), and he has nasty breaking balls,” Dempster says. “One at-bat, you might go up there and get three or four fastballs and strike out, and the next at-bat, you might get four or five breaking balls. He is playing a chess match with you with elite stuff. Trying to think of anybody like that so early in his career, I'd have to say Dwight Gooden is probably as close as I get as far as somebody who was that kind of guy.”

Gooden had a 2.60 ERA with 276 strikeouts for the Mets as a rookie in 1984 and a 1.53 ERA and a Cy Young in his second year. Dempster recently ran into Gary Sheffield, who grew up in Tampa with Gooden (Gooden's his uncle).

“We were talking about Doc,” Dempster says. “Gary was saying. ‘I was 10 years old, and Doc was pitching in the neighborhood, and I had no catcher's mask on.’ I said to him, ‘Well, what if they foul one off and it hits you in the face or something?’ He said, ‘I didn't worry. They weren't gonna foul anything off.’”

Dempster pauses and laughs.

“That's what I think about sometimes when I'm watching Paul Skenes.”

Same thing with Skubal, too.

BEST IN CLASS

MLB WELCOMES ANOTHER UBER-TALENTED SET OF ROOKIES

By Ryan Fagan

One of the best parts of every baseball season is watching prospects realize their lifelong dreams by making the jump to the big leagues.

For a select few, that MLB debut is just the launching point to a long and prosperous career. Last year, we saw two rookies for the Athletics — Jacob Wilson and Nick Kurtz — give fans of that vagabond franchise something to cheer for. Kurtz was called up for the first time in late April and went on to blast 36 homers in just 117 games (including four in one game against the Astros) and win the AL Rookie of the Year award. Wilson, who had made his debut late in 2024, batted .311, made the All-Star team and finished second in the ROY voting.

In the NL, the only two rookies to receive first-place votes in the award voting — Drake Baldwin in Atlanta and Cade Horton in Chicago — made their debuts in 2025.

Who's on tap this year? The list of incredibly talented players who could make a run at the rookie award is long. To sort it all out, we recruited two of the best prospect evaluators in the business — Jim Callis of MLB.com and Eric Longenhagen of FanGraphs — to add their expertise to the conversation.

■ JJ WETHERHOLT, INF, CARDINALS

It's odd to think that the future of a franchise as storied as the St. Louis Cardinals – 11 all-time World Series titles, second only to the Yankees – could be significantly positively impacted by a hamstring injury to a college baseball player in West Virginia. Heading into his junior year with the Mountaineers, Wetherholt was at or near the top of everyone's 2024 MLB Draft rankings. He batted an absurd .449 with a .517 on-base percentage as a sophomore, but he saw his ascension to the No. 1 overall pick derailed by that hamstring issue, which cost him roughly 20 games and sent his OBP "plummeting" all the way to .471.

When the first six teams chose other college stars, the Cardinals happily snagged the WVU infielder with the No. 7 overall pick. In his first two pro seasons covering three levels, the 5-foot-10, 190-pound powerhouse has batted a combined .304 with a .418 on-base percentage, a .905 OPS, 19 homers and 25 stolen bases across 138 games. He hasn't skipped a single beat jumping levels.

"This isn't a knock on anybody else, but I think if he doesn't have the hamstring injury his junior year at West Virginia, he's probably the No. 1 overall pick," Callis says. "I think it's gonna be one of those things that 10 years from now, people will be asking, 'How did this guy last seven picks in the draft?' It was a deep draft, and he'd had the hamstring injury, but he's been exactly who we thought he was."

The Cardinals have been patient with Wetherholt – Cardinals fans who screamed for his debut last year as he manhandled Triple-A pitching might use a different descriptor – but he's coming into 2026 spring training ready to prove that he's done with the minors forever. Wetherholt has mostly been a shortstop, and Callis says he's good enough to stick at the position in a vacuum, but considering that St. Louis has youthful Gold Glover Masyn Winn there, his future will be at second or third.

"Since he's come into pro ball, he's hit everywhere he's been, and he has such a high baseball IQ," Callis says. "I think he could be a solid defender at second base while winning batting championships and hitting 20 homers a year."

RICH STORRY-IMAGN IMAGES

KONNOR GRIFFIN, SS/CF, PIRATES

It's pretty telling that some of the first physical comps for Griffin, the 6-foot-4, 225-pound phenom, aren't even baseball players. "He's in that Julio Jones or A.J. Brown physical mold," says Longenhagen, rattling off a couple of freak-athlete NFL All-Pro wideouts. "On the baseball field, he's like Carlos Correa or Corey Seager, in terms of this guy's size and strength. I don't think the Correa comp is irresponsible at all. It's heavy, for sure, but this is a super-duper talented player."

In a 2024 draft stacked with proven college commodities, some scouts, Longenhagen notes, were a bit concerned with Griffin's long swing and relatively high swing-and-miss rate as a prep star. He wound up going to the Pirates with the No. 9 overall pick and immediately put together the type of first pro season that high school picks dream about.

"As he got stronger pretty fast – he's probably put on 20 pounds – that allowed him to shorten up his swing some," Longenhagen says. "There have been mechanical changes, and he's basically gone from a guy where you're worried there's going to be real issues with strikeouts to an average hitter from a bat-to-ball standpoint. And when you have his kind of power, the hit tool piece of it will play up because the quality of his contact is so good."

Griffin tore up Single-A ball to start his pro career, then did the same in High-A. Promoted to Double-A for his final 21 games of the season, Griffin didn't bat an eye. He finished the season with a .333 average, .415 on-base percentage and .941 OPS with 21 homers and 65 stolen bases in 122 total games.

"He's just explosive on the bases," Longenhagen says. "Watching him run, the way he churns up the earth underneath his spikes, the divots he leaves in the infield dirt when he is going full tilt, it's just nuts how powerful he is. The way I wrote it was that it looks like a rooster tail shooting up behind a speed boat. It's a rooster tail of dirt. He's got a shot to go 40/40. I'll say this, that he's a 30/30 lock at peak."

Griffin, who won't turn 20 until April 24, has the glove to stick at shortstop, though his speed and baseball instincts would make for an outstanding center fielder, too.

SABASTIAN WALCOTT, SS RANGERS

Walcott spent his age-19 season playing Double-A ball for the Rangers – he was nearly five years younger than the average Double-A player – and flashing the type of talent that has fans of the franchise eagerly awaiting his eventual MLB debut.

"Walcott's super exciting," Callis says. "In terms of youth and tools, Konnor Griffin would be ahead of him, but I don't know that there's anybody else in the minors who necessarily has that all-around ability as well as the youth. Playing Double-A as a teenager, he showed his huge power, huge arm strength and he can run. I think his hitting ability is going to continue to get better as he gains more experience."

In 124 games with Frisco, the 6-foot-4 Bahamian native hit 13 homers and stole 32 bases to go with a .741 OPS and .355 on-base percentage. He's played the left side of the infield in the minors – 192 at shortstop, 38 at third base – and likely has the tools to handle either spot in the bigs. With Seager entrenched at short and Josh Jung at third, though, the Rangers should be able to show a bit of patience with his development.

The bat, though, will make an impact in the big leagues at some point.

"Walcott's probably a half to a full season away from the big leagues," Callis says. "He might be a future home run champion and also has one of the best arms you're going to see in baseball."

KEVIN McGONIGLE SS, TIGERS

Baseball fans love comps, and Longenhagen has a couple for McGonigle. Think José Ramírez, in terms of being someone who's initially doubted because of his size – the 5-foot-10, 187-pound McGonigle went 37th overall in the 2023 MLB Draft out of high school but exited 2025 ranked as the No. 3 prospect in baseball by FanGraphs – but with a combination of athleticism and exceptional hitting.

"I don't think McGonigle's ceiling is quite in the José Ramírez territory," Longenhagen says, "but the verve in his body, his approach at the plate, the quality of the contact and how flush it is, he's going to hit for enough power to be an impact player."

In 36 games at High-A last year, McGonigle tore up Midwest League pitching to the tune of a .372 average, .462 on-base percentage and 1.110 OPS. Moved up to Double-A Erie, he hit 12 homers with a .919 OPS in 46 games. Then, in 19 games in the Arizona Fall League, he won MVP honors with 22 runs scored, five home runs, 19 RBIs, a .500 on-base percentage and 1.210 OPS. In 183 career minor-league games, McGonigle has 123 walks and only 84 strikeouts.

And another trait of his was on full display in Arizona.

"The thing in the fall league that stood out watching him a couple times a week for six weeks is that he is a Dustin Pedroia-type of lunatic," Longenhagen says with a laugh. "He is a Philly kid who absolutely brings it every play, who is spiky and talks smack. He's super competitive, and he backs it up with his style of play. He had multiple verbal confrontations with other players, and entire opposing teams at certain points, jawing with other guys."

McGonigle has played mostly shortstop in the minors, but Longenhagen sees his eventual landing spot in the bigs at either second or third base.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: MARK J. REBILAS-IMAGN IMAGES; KEVIN JAIRAJ-USA TODAY SPORTS; GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

■ COLT EMERSON, SS MARINERS

Injuries in his first couple of seasons of pro ball stymied Emerson's progress, too, but his 600-plate-appearance season in 2025 – he started in High-A and finished in Triple-A – pushed expectations skyward, as the 22nd overall pick in the 2023 draft showed why the Mariners have long been high on his potential.

Staying healthy gave him a chance to make adjustments to his swing as the season progressed, and though it's obviously an extremely small sample size, batting .364 with two homers, two doubles and nine RBIs in six Triple-A games was a great sign. Overall for the season, Emerson posted an .842 OPS with 16 homers and 14 stolen bases.

"He made a few late-season mechanical adjustments, which had more to do with his footwork than his hands, just to help with his long swing," Longenhagen says. "The goal was to cut down his stride and see if he can be more on time. It seemed like that made a difference."

Emerson has been primarily a shortstop, but the Mariners have given him starts at second and third, too. He's in Seattle's infield prospect mix with Cole Young, who made his MLB debut in 2025, and Michael Arroyo, who reached Double-A last year.

"We could see two of those three guys be an integral part of Seattle's contending group going forward," Longenhagen says. "Lefty-hitting infielders with Emerson's kind of bat speed don't grow on trees, and the fact that he was able to make mechanical tweaks at all is a very positive indicator for him to be able to remedy some of the stuff. He's going to be a good player in the big leagues pretty quickly."

■ WALKER JENKINS OF, TWINS

The biggest knock on the left-handed-hitting Jenkins, the No. 5 overall pick in the 2023 MLB Draft, has been that injuries – a hamstring in 2024 and an ankle issue in 2025 – have kept him from playing more than 84 games in a season thus far.

"I feel like Walker just needs to stay healthy," Callis says. "I actually think he's slightly underrated because he just hasn't been healthy enough. I don't think anything serious where it's a long-term concern, but he hasn't had that monster full season in the minor leagues. You're talking about a guy who can hit for average, hit for power and draw walks, and I think he has a chance to play center. If he doesn't stick in center, he fits the right-field profile."

After a delayed start to his 2025 season, Jenkins produced a .309/.426/.487 line with seven homers and 11 stolen bases in 52 games for Double-A Wichita. A promotion to Triple-A for his final 23 games of the season gave him a taste of more seasoned pitching.

"I remember going into his draft year having a scout I really respect compare him to Larry Walker, and he does have those kind of tools," Callis says. "And he's performed, but he's just been too banged up to have a fully healthy season and put up monster numbers. So in a weird sort of way, I think he's a little bit underrated."

■ CARSON BENGE, OF, METS

He was a two-way player at Oklahoma State, but Benge's potential as a hitter intrigued the Mets, who took him 19th overall in the 2024 draft.

"He's an interesting player," Callis says. "I felt like he had one of the best combinations in that draft of swing decisions, contact and hard contact. It was just that he hadn't played a lot because, as a two-way guy, he wasn't a full-time hitter, plus he lost a year to Tommy John surgery. And I felt like he was a little bit underrated as a center fielder, too. He's a pretty good athlete, even though he's not a blazer. Maybe he doesn't wind up in center, but he's got the arm strength."

Benge started 2025 in High-A, posting a .302/.417/.480 slash line in 60 games. He followed that up with a .317/.407/.571 line in Double-A. His numbers took a tumble in 24 games for Triple-A Syracuse – .178/.272/.311 – but that's not something that really concerns Callis.

"I just look at that like it was the end of a long year; he was only playing 60 games in college and the pro season is a lot longer, plus the competition level was a lot higher than he was seeing 12 months ago," Callis says. "I wasn't really surprised that he got to Triple-A in his first full year in pro ball. I don't know that he'll be in the Mets' Opening Day lineup, but at the same time, I do think he's talented enough that if you told me he was in their Opening Day lineup, it wouldn't shock me."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: MARK J. REBILAS-IMAGN IMAGES; JONAH HINEBAUGH/NAPLES DAILY NEWS/USA TODAY NETWORK-FLORIDA; SARAH PHIPPS/THE OKLAHOMAN

■ JUSTIN CRAWFORD, CF PHILLIES

The son of four-time All-Star Carl Crawford, Justin Crawford hit .334 with a .411 on-base percentage and 46 stolen bases for Triple-A Lehigh Valley in 2025 in his age-21 season. He has elite defensive potential in center field, too. In basically every way, athletically and on paper, Longenhagen notes, Crawford is an exciting prospect, except for one little thing.

"There aren't any good big-leaguers who hit the ball on the ground as much as he does," Longenhagen says. "His swing is just so long that he ends up playing pepper with the third baseman most of the time. When you're as fast as he is, and you're facing minor league defenses, you can perform the way he has.

"He had a 60% ground-ball rate last year. There are no qualified big-leaguers from 2025 who hit the ball on the ground that much. Christian Yelich was at 57%, and the next guy was down at 53%. There are only seven qualified big-leaguers from 2025 who even had a ground-ball rate north of 50%, and one of them is Alec Bohm, whom people in Philly have been frustrated with. That sort of gives you an idea of how mold-breaking he would be to be an impact big-leaguer if that doesn't improve."

Still, Longenhagen says, the arrival of Crawford this spring could help Philadelphia.

"Even if he's a nine-hole hitter who just plays really good defense, I still think that's better than some of the in-house alternatives the Phillies have," Longenhagen says. "But whether or not he's able to make an impact on offense is probably going to be dictated by this: Can he get stronger and be shorter to the baseball as he matures? If he can, all the other stuff is in place for him to have a true breakout and be a five-tool type player."

FROM LEFT: KIM KLEMENT NEITZEL-IMAGN IMAGES; PHIL MASTURZO; KIM KLEMENT NEITZEL-IMAGN IMAGES

■ TRAVIS BAZZANA, 2B, GUARDIANS

Bazzana was the No. 1 overall pick in a 2024 MLB Draft that could go down as one of the best of the era – several players from that draft class are on this list – but Longenhagen and other prospect evaluators look at Bazzana as more high-floor than high-ceiling.

"He doesn't have some of the overt physical tools of some of the other guys," Longenhagen says. "He's more of a medium-framed player, sort of in that Rougned Odor mold physically, where he packs a pretty good punch for his size, but nothing too crazy. I think the OBP piece and his ability to get to the power that he does have is still going to enable him to be a starter. He's not an especially good defender; second base seems like the only fit for me."

In his final year at Oregon State, he had 76 walks and 37 strikeouts in 60 games. At three levels in Cleveland's system in 2025, Bazzana had 66 walks and 91 strikeouts. That ratio was actually better in Triple-A (29 walks, 32 strikeouts) than it was in Double-A (29 walks, 55 strikeouts), which was encouraging. Overall, Bazzana batted .245 with a .389 on-base percentage, with nine homers and 12 stolen bases in 84 games, though he missed time with oblique injuries to both sides.

"I think he's more of an average everyday second baseman than a star, but he has exceptional makeup," Longenhagen says. "The list of sports this guy lettered in in high school in Australia is amazing. He ran track – 100 meters, long jump, high jump – as well as playing soccer, basketball, rugby and cricket."

■ SPENCER JONES, OF, YANKEES

A 6-foot-7 masher with prodigious power, Jones slugged 35 homers in 116 games last year, 49 games in Double-A and 67 in Triple-A. It's hard to fault Yankees fans for getting excited about a tall college slugger taken late in the first round; Aaron Judge went 32nd overall in 2013, and Jones was 25th overall in 2022.

But Jones has question marks.

"I struggle with him a bit, to be honest," Callis says. "You look at his size and athleticism, and there aren't too many guys that have that kind of combination. And obviously the power is huge. It's just there's a long history of swing-and-miss, and I just don't know how confident I am that the bat is going to be there for consistent production. The ceiling for him could be a 40-home run guy pretty easily, but he's going to have to make a lot more consistent contact. It looked like something had kind of clicked for most of last year, but then in the last four to six weeks of the season, he was really struggling again. So he's super interesting."

Jones struck out 179 times in those 116 games last year, on the heels of 200 strikeouts in 124 games in Double-A in 2024. That kind of power/whiff combination might remind Yankees fans of a different slugger – Joey Gallo.

"Joey's probably the most extreme example of that profile, but, yeah, Jones could hit 40 home runs but he also could hit .200 with 200 strikeouts," Callis says. "I think Spencer is a better athlete, playing in the outfield. The thing is, Joey Gallo means something a lot different for Rangers fans than he does for Yankees fans."

2026 AL Predictions

AMERICAN LEAGUE PREDICTIONS

AL EAST
1. TORONTO BLUE JAYS
2. NEW YORK YANKEES*
3. BOSTON RED SOX*
4. BALTIMORE ORIOLES
5. TAMPA BAY RAYS

AL CENTRAL
1. DETROIT TIGERS
2. KANSAS CITY ROYALS
3. CLEVELAND GUARDIANS
4. MINNESOTA TWINS
5. CHICAGO WHITE SOX

AL WEST
1. SEATTLE MARINERS
2. HOUSTON ASTROS*
3. TEXAS RANGERS
4. ATHLETICS
5. LOS ANGELES ANGELS

*WILD CARD

ALCS

BLUE JAYS OVER MARINERS

WORLD SERIES

DODGERS OVER BLUE JAYS

AL MVP

1. AARON JUDGE
OF, NEW YANKEES

2. BOBBY WITT JR.
SS, KANSAS CITY ROYALS

3. JULIO RODRÍGUEZ
OF, SEATTLE MARINERS

4. GUNNAR HENDERSON
SS, BALTIMORE ORIOLES

5. VLADIMIR GUERRERO JR.
1B, TORONTO BLUE JAYS

AL CY YOUNG

1. GARRETT CROCHET
LHP, BOSTON RED SOX

2. TARIK SKUBAL
LHP, DETROIT TIGERS

3. MAX FRIED
LHP, NEW YORK YANKEES

4. HUNTER BROWN
RHP, HOUSTON ASTROS

5. LOGAN GILBERT
RHP, SEATTLE MARINERS

AL ROY

1. TREY YESAVAGE
RHP, TORONTO BLUE JAYS

2. KEVIN McGONIGLE
SS/2B, DETROIT TIGERS

3. SAMUEL BASALLO
C/1B, BALTIMORE ORIOLES

4. CHASE DeLAUTER
OF, CLEVELAND GUARDIANS

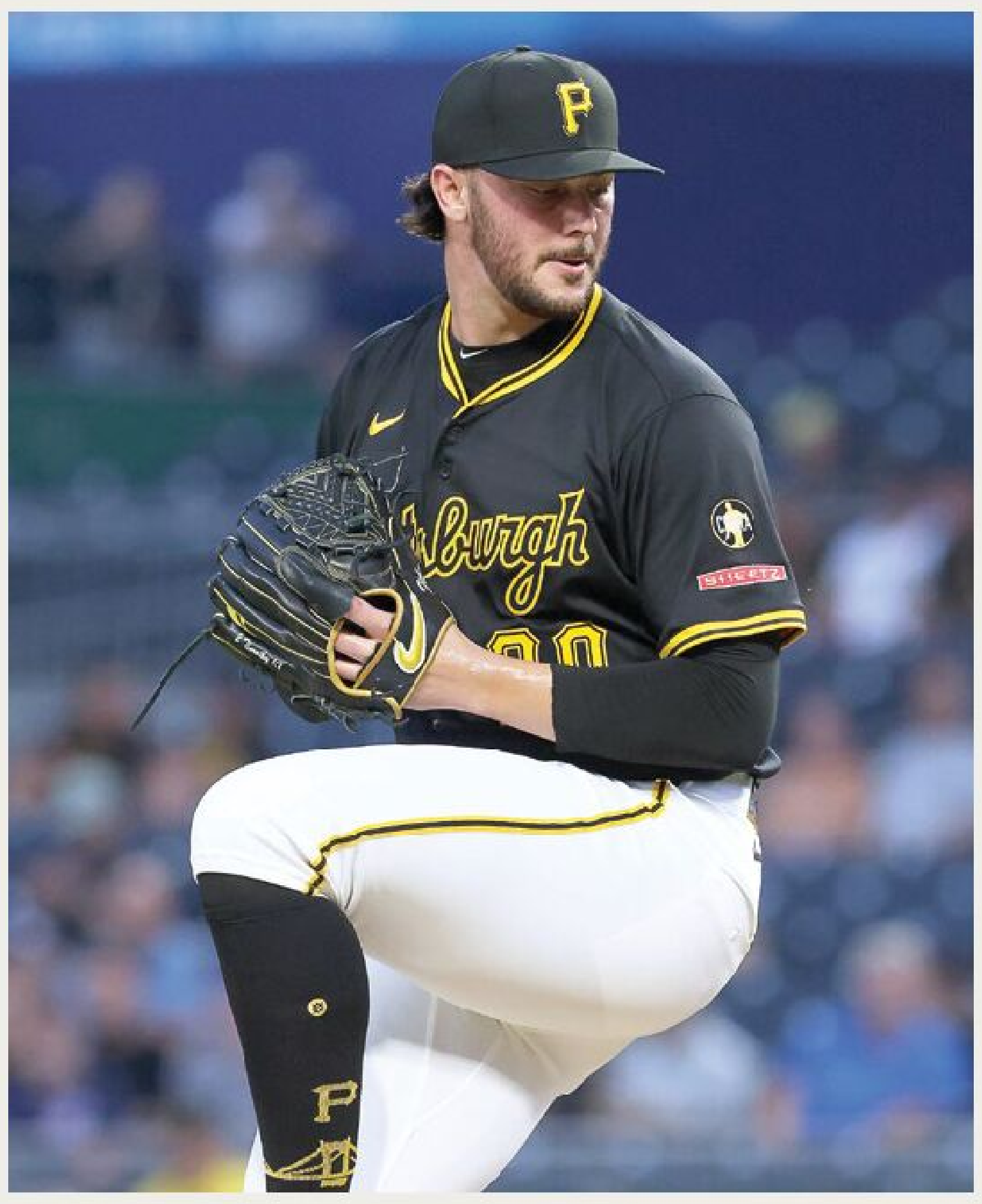
5. PAYTON TOLLE
LHP, BOSTON RED SOX

FROM TOP: GREGORY FISHER-IMAGN IMAGES; ERIC CANHA-IMAGN IMAGES; KIYOSHI MIO-IMAGN IMAGES

2026 NL Predictions

NL MVP

1. **SHOHEI OHTANI**
DH/SP, LOS ANGELES DODGERS
2. **JUAN SOTO**
OF, NEW YORK METS
3. **RONALD ACUÑA JR.**
OF, ATLANTA BRAVES
4. **FERNANDO TATIS JR.**
OF, SAN DIEGO PADRES
5. **CORBIN CARROLL**
OF, ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS



NL CY YOUNG

1. **PAUL SKENES**
RHP, PITTSBURGH PIRATES
2. **YOSHINOBU YAMAMOTO**
RHP, LOS ANGELES DODGERS
3. **LOGAN WEBB**
RHP, SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS
4. **HUNTER GREENE**
RHP, CINCINNATI REDS
5. **CRISTOPHER SÁNCHEZ**
LHP, PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

NL ROY

1. **NOLAN McLEAN**
RHP, NEW YORK METS
2. **JJ WETHERHOLT**
INF, ST. LOUIS CARDINALS
3. **SAL STEWART**
INF, CINCINNATI REDS
4. **BUBBA CHANDLER**
RHP, PITTSBURGH PIRATES
5. **KONNOR GRIFFIN**
SS, PITTSBURGH PIRATES

FROM TOP: JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA-IMAGN IMAGES; CHARLES LECLAIRE-IMAGN IMAGES; VINCENT CARCHIETTA-IMAGN IMAGES

NATIONAL LEAGUE PREDICTIONS

NL EAST
1. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES
2. NEW YORK METS*
3. ATLANTA BRAVES
4. MIAMI MARLINS
5. WASHINGTON NATIONALS

NL CENTRAL
1. MILWAUKEE BREWERS
2. CHICAGO CUBS*
3. CINCINNATI REDS
4. PITTSBURGH PIRATES
5. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

NL WEST
1. LOS ANGELES DODGERS
2. SAN DIEGO PADRES*
3. SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS
4. ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS
5. COLORADO ROCKIES

*WILD CARD

NLCS

DODGERS OVER PHILLIES

WORLD SERIES

DODGERS OVER BLUE JAYS

Baltimore ORIOLES

2026 PREDICTION
4TH
AL EAST
2025 FINISH: 5TH (75-87)

The Orioles are spending money and demonstrating an aggressiveness in the free-agent and trade markets that is enabling them to regain contender status after last year's hard fall down to the American League East cellar, which cost manager Brandon Hyde his job in May. No more excuses about market size and payroll restrictions. A new ownership group headed by billionaire David Rubenstein is opening doors and invigorating a fan base that showed its displeasure last year by staying away from Camden Yards. The team didn't hit or pitch last season, and the team is addressing those deficiencies, with the big splash being the signing of first baseman Pete Alonso to a five-year, $155 million contract. President of baseball operations/general manager Mike Elias believes the Orioles could have the best lineup in baseball.

ROTATION

The Orioles sent four of their top-30 prospects and a Competitive Balance Round A pick to the Rays for righthander Shane Baz, who made 31 starts in his first full season after Tommy John surgery. Kyle Bradish made his own return from elbow reconstructive surgery last summer, and he could be the staff ace after finishing fourth in Cy Young voting in 2023. Lefthander Trevor Rogers went from trade bust to owner of a 1.81 ERA in 18 starts, cementing his place in the rotation as perhaps the No. 2. Dean Kremer returns to the back end of the rotation. Tyler Wells, who made four starts after coming back from elbow reconstructive surgery, became a candidate for the bullpen after the Orioles brought back Zach Eflin on a one-year, $10 million deal with a mutual option for 2027, but Eflin might not be ready for Opening Day after undergoing lower-back surgery in August. Cade Povich and Brandon Young combined for 34 appearances last season but appear destined for Triple-A or perhaps bullpen roles in Baltimore. The depth is improving and includes Trey Gibson, the organization's 2025 Minor League Pitcher of the Year.

BULLPEN

All-Star closer Félix Bautista returned from Tommy John surgery last year but underwent a procedure to repair his right labrum and rotator cuff. He could return late in the season. Ryan Helsley, who led the majors in saves in 2024, signed a two-year, $28 million contract that includes an opt-out. Andrew Kittredge returned in a trade with the Chicago Cubs. The unit remains under construction, but versatile lefthander Keegan Akin returns, and Albert Suárez came back on a minor-league deal after injuries limited him to five appearances. Yennier Cano, an All-Star in 2023, needs a bounce-back season. Rookie Kade Strowd impressed with a 1.71 ERA in 25 games, and the Orioles signed lefthander Dietrich Enns to a one-year deal after he posted a 3.14 ERA in 17 appearances. The Orioles put Anthony Nunez on the 40-man roster to protect him in the Rule 5 draft, and he has a shot to make the club, as does Colin Selby. A few starters could be considered for relief roles. Wells has experience and success doing both.

GUNNAR HENDERSON

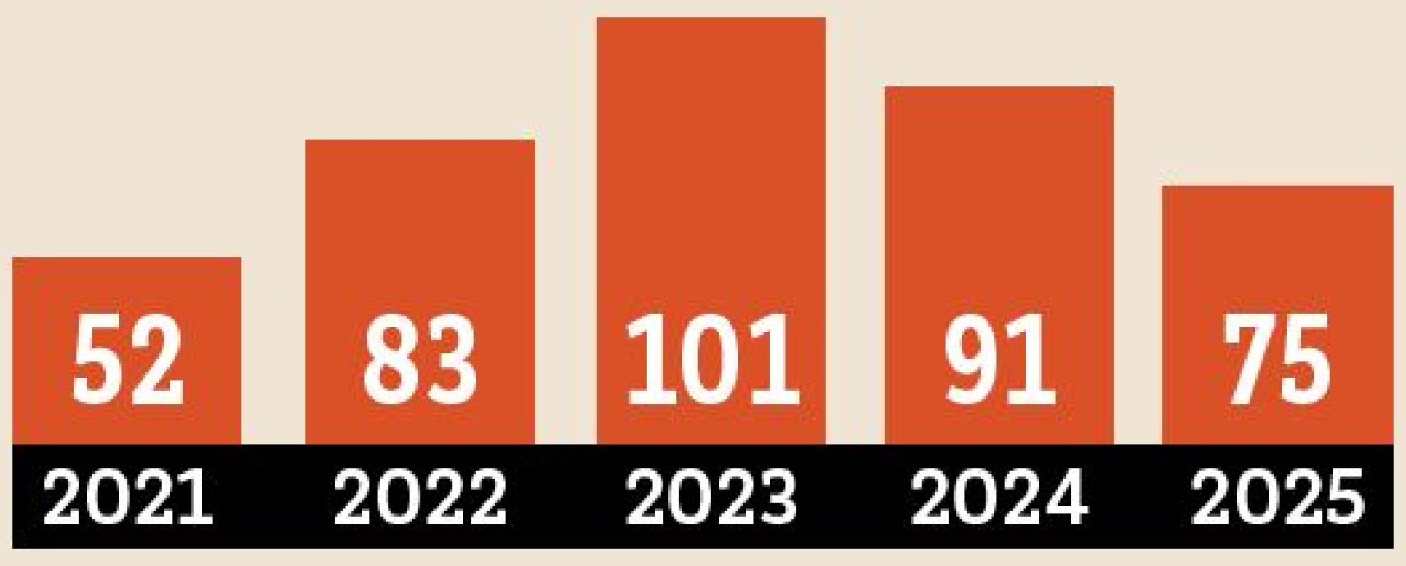
JOHN JONES-IMAGN IMAGES

Oriole Park at Camden Yards

Opened: 1992 • Capacity: 44,487
Left: 333′ Center: 410′ Right: 318′
Tickets: 888-848-2473
mlb.com/ORIOLES

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Largest decrease in strikeout rate among hitters from 2024-25, minimum 200 plate appearances

1. Jorge Polanco, Mariners	-13.6%
2. Will Benson, Reds	-13.2%
3. Jackson Holliday, Orioles	**-11.6%**
4. Max Schuemann, Athletics	-9.5%
5. Tyler O'Neill, Orioles	**-9.2%**

MIDDLE INFIELD

The double-play combination seems to be set with shortstop Gunnar Henderson and second baseman Jackson Holliday, the first overall pick in the 2022 draft. Henderson is one of the best talents in baseball, but he started slowly after straining his intercostal muscle in spring training and landing on the injured list. Expectations remain sky-high for Holliday, 22. His defense is improving after the move from shortstop. Jordan Westburg can back up at both positions. The Orioles were considering a utility player after trading Ramón Urías in July. Jeremiah Jackson played both positions in the minors.

CORNERS

Westburg is one of the best hitters on the team and likely to get most of the starts at third base, but he hasn't stayed healthy. Henderson and Jackson, if he makes the team, can also play third. First base is no longer a flexible position, with Alonso playing in 162 games with the New York Mets in each of the past two seasons. The Orioles tendered a contract to Ryan Mountcastle, and they also have former top prospect Coby Mayo, who began his professional career at third but was below average defensively. No. 1 prospect Samuel Basallo is the backup catcher after making his major league debut in August, but he also plays first. Those reps won't be as readily available with Alonso on the team, but he can back up if needed.

ADLEY RUTSCHMAN

BRAD PENNER-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

The Orioles acquired slugger Taylor Ward from the Los Angeles Angels for starter Grayson Rodriguez, who hasn't pitched since July 31, 2024. Ward can become a free agent after the season, but he filled the desire for a right-handed power bat. He's slotted in left field, with Tyler O'Neill and Dylan Beavers sharing time in right. O'Neill didn't exercise the opt-out on his three-year, $49.5 million deal after three separate injuries limited him to only 54 games. If he's healthy, he's capable of another 30-homer season. Beavers is one of the top prospects in the organization. He debuted in August and brings impressive power and on-base skills. Long-time center fielder Cedric Mullins is gone, and Colton Cowser could move from left to the middle. The 2021 first-round draft pick needs to cut down on the strikeouts — 300 in 245 games over the past two seasons. Leody Taveras signed a $2.1 million contract to back up at each position.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

SS	Gunnar Henderson (L)
3B	Jordan Westburg (R)
LF	Taylor Ward (R)
1B	Pete Alonso (R)
C	Adley Rutschman (S)
DH	Samuel Basallo (L)
RF	Tyler O'Neill (R)
CF	Colton Cowser (L)
2B	Jackson Holliday (L)

■ BENCH

OF	Dylan Beavers (L)
OF	Leody Taveras (S)
1B	Ryan Mountcastle (R)
3B/1B	Coby Mayo (R)

■ ROTATION

RHP	Kyle Bradish
LHP	Trevor Rogers
RHP	Shane Baz
RHP	Zach Eflin
RHP	Dean Kremer

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Ryan Helsley (C)
RHP	Andrew Kittredge
RHP	Yennier Cano
RHP	Tyler Wells
RHP	Kade Strowd
RHP	Albert Suárez
LHP	Keegan Akin
LHP	Dietrich Enns

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE ORIOLES "The Pete Alonso signing changes everything, perception-wise, for that team. The fans have been waiting for ownership to step up, and they did. Alonso is as reliable a power source as there is in baseball, and he's a marketer's dream. I know the Mets were down on his defense — he should never even attempt another 3-1 play — but plenty of first basemen are worse. The lineup should take a big step forward. Gunnar Henderson will be fine — he started slow last year with the injury and never really got on track. Colton Cowser, Adley Rutschman and Jordan Westburg all have something to prove, and I've got to believe at least two of them will bounce back. My biggest concern here is the pitching. They got Ryan Helsley to close; that's fine. Dean Kremer is a good mid-rotation guy, but they're really banking on Kyle Bradish being an ace again and Trevor Rogers repeating his second half. It might happen, but there's not a long track record there."

CATCHING

There's no camp competition behind the plate. Adley Rutschman is the starter, and Basallo is the backup. Rutschman was the first overall draft pick in 2019 and a two-time All-Star who has experienced a pronounced drop in offensive production since the 2024 break. Two new hitting coaches might get him back on track. Basallo has a world of talent, with light tower power the most impressive. He just needs to keep maturing at age 21. The Orioles might carry a third catcher, which was Alex Jackson's role last summer before they traded him in the offseason.

DH/BENCH

Having Alonso hunkered down at first base forces the Orioles to rotate more players into the DH spot. It can be Rutschman or Basallo if they aren't catching. O'Neill could DH at times in an attempt to keep him healthy. Mountcastle and Mayo will be on the bench if they can't crack the lineup. Beavers and Taveras also will be counted among the reserves when they aren't starting. The Orioles were deciding over the winter whether they needed to shop for a utility player or give Jackson a crack at it.

MANAGEMENT

Rubenstein, who took control in 2024, is much more willing to spend than the Angelos family. He talks about deep pockets and the lack of constraints, and he finally put his money where his mouth is with the signings of Alonso and, to a much lesser degree, Helsley. This is a huge turning point for the franchise. Craig Albernaz is a first-time major league manager who developed a strong reputation during his time in the Rays, Giants and Guardians organizations. Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. is part of the ownership group and is getting more involved in the operation, a nice counter to the heavy reliance on analytics. The organization feels more stable than it has in many years.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Orioles could make a run at a winning season and a return to the playoffs, especially if they continue to upgrade the rotation and bullpen. They don't have much choice. Another sub-.500 finish could turn up the heat on Elias. The AL East is a beast, as usual, but the Orioles are better equipped to compete if they can avoid another avalanche of injuries. The roster churn last year was constant and crippling.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

TREVOR ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD Rogers made a spectacular comeback in 2025 after four miserable starts with the Orioles and a demotion the previous summer following a trade with the Miami Marlins. He posted a 1.81 ERA in 18 games and became the first pitcher chosen Most Valuable Oriole, in voting by media covering the team, since Rodrigo Lopez in 2002 and only the fourth lefthander after Randy Myers (1997), Mike Cuellar (1974) and Dave McNally (1968).

BASALLO'S BIG PAYDAY Catcher Samuel Basallo emerged as the No. 1 prospect in the organization, made his major-league debut in August at age 21 and unexpectedly got paid. The Orioles veered outside their comfort zone by giving the Dominican native an eight-year, $67 million contract extension with a 2034 team option, making it the largest pre-arbitration catcher deal. Included are escalators that could reach $88.5 million. His debut came only five days earlier.

DIVISION DUDS The Orioles went 22-30 against the AL East, their worst record since the schedule switched to 13 division games vs. each team prior to the 2023 season. They went 7-6 vs. the Tampa Bay Rays but 6-7 vs. the Toronto Blue Jays, 5-8 vs. the Boston Red Sox and 4-9 vs. the New York Yankees. The Orioles lost their final six road games vs. the division — three in Toronto and three in New York.

Schedule

🟧 HOME ⬜ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 🟧 MIN	27	28 🟧 MIN
29 🟧 MIN	30 🟧 TEX	31 🟧 TEX	1 🟧 TEX	2	3 ⬜ PIT	4 ⬜ PIT
5 ⬜ PIT	6 ⬜ CWS	7 ⬜ CWS	8 ⬜ CWS	9	10 🟧 SF	11 🟧 SF
12 🟧 SF	13 🟧 ARI	14 🟧 ARI	15 🟧 ARI	16 ⬜ CLE	17 ⬜ CLE	18 ⬜ CLE
19 ⬜ CLE	20 ⬜ KC	21 ⬜ KC	22 ⬜ KC	23	24 🟧 BOS	25 🟧 BOS
26 🟧 BOS	27	28 🟧 HOU	29 🟧 HOU	30 🟧 HOU		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ⬜ NYY	2 ⬜ NYY
3 ⬜ NYY	4 ⬜ NYY	5 ⬜ MIA	6 ⬜ MIA	7 ⬜ MIA	8 🟧 A's	9 🟧 A's
10 🟧 A's	11 🟧 NYY	12 🟧 NYY	13 🟧 NYY	14	15 ⬜ WAS	16 ⬜ WAS
17 ⬜ WAS	18 ⬜ TB	19 ⬜ TB	20 ⬜ TB	21	22 🟧 DET	23 🟧 DET
24 🟧 DET	25 🟧 TB	26 🟧 TB	27 🟧 TB	28 🟧 TOR	29 🟧 TOR	30 🟧 TOR
31 🟧 TOR						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2 ⬜ BOS	3 ⬜ BOS	4 ⬜ BOS	5 ⬜ TOR	6 ⬜ TOR
7 ⬜ TOR	8 🟧 SEA	9 🟧 SEA	10 🟧 SEA	11 🟧 SEA	12 🟧 SD	13 🟧 SD
14 🟧 SD	15	16 ⬜ SEA	17 ⬜ SEA	18 ⬜ SEA	19 ⬜ LAD	20 ⬜ LAD
21 ⬜ LAD	22 ⬜ LAA	23 ⬜ LAA	24 ⬜ LAA	25	26 🟧 WAS	27 🟧 WAS
28 🟧 WAS	29 🟧 CWS	30 🟧 CWS				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 🟧 CWS	2	3 ⬜ CIN	4 ⬜ CIN
5 ⬜ CIN	6	7 🟧 CHC	8 🟧 CHC	9 🟧 CHC	10 🟧 KC	11 🟧 KC
12 🟧 KC	13	14 ALL-STAR BREAK	15	16	17 ⬜ HOU	18 ⬜ HOU
19 ⬜ HOU	20 ⬜ BOS	21 ⬜ BOS	22 ⬜ BOS	23	24 🟧 ATL	25 🟧 ATL
26 🟧 ATL	27 ⬜ DET	28 ⬜ DET	29 ⬜ DET	30	31 🟧 PHI	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 🟧 PHI
2 🟧 PHI	3	4 🟧 LAA	5 🟧 LAA	6 🟧 LAA	7 ⬜ TEX	8 ⬜ TEX
9 ⬜ TEX	10 ⬜ MIN	11 ⬜ MIN	12 ⬜ MIN	13	14 ⬜ TB	15 ⬜ TB
16 ⬜ TB	17 ⬜ TB	18 🟧 NYY	19 🟧 NYY	20 🟧 NYY	21 🟧 TB	22 🟧 TB
23 🟧 TB	24	25 ⬜ STL	26 ⬜ STL	27 ⬜ STL	28 ⬜ A's	29 ⬜ A's
30 ⬜ A's	31 ⬜ COL					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 ⬜ COL	2 ⬜ COL	3 🟧 BOS	4 🟧 BOS	5 🟧 BOS
6 🟧 BOS	7 🟧 CLE	8 🟧 CLE	9 🟧 CLE	10	11 ⬜ TOR	12 ⬜ TOR
13 ⬜ TOR	14 ⬜ NYM	15 ⬜ NYM	16 ⬜ NYM	17	18 🟧 MIL	19 🟧 MIL
20 🟧 MIL	21 🟧 TOR	22 🟧 TOR	23 🟧 TOR	24	25 ⬜ NYY	26 ⬜ NYY
27 ⬜ NYY	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

17 Number of home runs hit by Gunnar Henderson, Jackson Holliday and Jordan Westburg to tie for the team lead. The Orioles are the first major league club to have six or more players hit at least 15 in a season without anyone reaching 20.

◆

70 Players used in 2025 to set the franchise record and come within one of the major league mark.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

- **1. Samuel Basallo, C (21)** Made debut in August and received eight-year contract extension based on enormous potential.

2. Dylan Beavers, OF (24) Made his MLB debut one day before Basallo and posted .375 OBP in 35 games.

3. Ike Irish, C/RF (22) First-rounder in 2025 could do more catching with Caden Bodine traded to Rays.

4. Enrique Bradfield Jr., CF (24) The 17th overall draft pick in 2023 has elite speed and defensive skills.

5. Wehiwa Aloy, SS (22) Considered a steal with 31st overall pick in 2025 out of Arkansas.

6. Esteban Mejia, RHP (19) Working on control, but fastball reaches 102 mph.

7. Nate George, OF (19) Orioles' Minor League Player of the Year in first pro season, stealing 50 bases and playing like his hair was on fire.

8. Boston Bateman, LHP (20) Orioles held out for Bateman in deadline trade with Padres that cost Ryan O'Hearn and Ramón Laureano.

9. Trey Gibson, RHP (23) Reached Triple-A last year and should make majors debut this summer.

10. Juaron Watts-Brown, RHP (24) Slider is his out pitch and compensates for low-90s fastball.

Orioles Roster

President of Baseball Operations and General Manager: Mike Elias • **Manager:** Craig Albernaz • **Coaches:** Jason Bourgeois (first base), Buck Britton (third base), Miguel Cairo (infield), Hank Conger (bullpen), Donnie Ecker (bench), Drew French (pitching), Ryan Klimek (pitching strategy), Dustin Lind (hitting), Brady North (asst. hitting), Mitch Plassmeyer (asst. pitching), Joe Singley (field coordinator/catching)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
45	Keegan Akin	L-L	6-0	240	4/1/95	**BALTIMORE**	5-4	3.41	64	3	8	63.1	54	33	59
						Norfolk (AAA)	0-0	4.50	2	0	0	2.0	1	0	1
74	Félix Bautista	R-R	6-8	285	6/20/95	**BALTIMORE**	1-1	2.60	35	0	19	34.2	16	23	50
	Shane Baz	R-R	6-3	200	6/17/99	**TAMPA BAY**	10-12	4.87	31	31	0	166.1	158	64	176
38	Kyle Bradish	R-R	6-3	215	9/12/96	**BALTIMORE**	1-1	2.53	6	6	0	32.0	23	10	47
						Norfolk (AAA)	1-0	6.06	4	4	0	16.1	20	7	19
78	Yennier Cano	R-R	6-4	245	3/9/94	**BALTIMORE**	3-7	5.12	65	0	2	58.0	62	24	53
						Norfolk (AAA)	0-0	4.50	2	0	0	2.0	2	0	2
24	Zach Eflin	R-R	6-6	220	4/8/94	**BALTIMORE**	6-5	5.93	14	14	0	71.1	88	13	50
71	Dietrich Enns	L-L	6-1	210	5/16/91	**BALTIMORE**	2-2	3.14	17	1	2	28.2	27	11	34
						DETROIT	1-1	5.60	7	2	0	17.2	23	4	15
						Toledo (AAA)	2-2	2.89	14	14	0	62.1	61	15	71
72	Jose Espada	R-R	6-0	170	2/22/97	**BALTIMORE**	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	3.0	1	0	4
						Norfolk (AAA)	2-2	5.94	16	0	3	16.2	8	11	25
						El Paso (AAA)	2-0	4.80	12	0	0	15.0	14	11	21
						San Antonio (AA)	1-1	2.42	17	0	3	22.1	12	8	37
	Cameron Foster	R-R	6-5	230	3/17/99	Norfolk (AAA)	0-0	3.38	13	0	1	16.0	14	8	23
						Syracuse (AAA)	1-1	17.18	2	1	0	3.2	7	3	5
						Binghamton (AA)	4-1	1.01	19	0	2	26.2	17	5	34
50	Rico Garcia	R-R	5-9	201	1/10/94	**BALTIMORE**	0-2	2.84	20	1	0	19.0	21	6	20
						NEW YORK AL	0-0	10.13	1	0	0	2.2	3	2	2
						NEW YORK NL	0-0	2.13	8	0	0	12.2	7	2	16
						Syracuse (AAA)	0-1	4.45	24	2	1	30.1	27	20	37
	Ryan Helsley	R-R	6-2	235	7/18/94	**ST. LOUIS**	3-1	3.00	36	0	21	36.0	36	14	41
						NEW YORK NL	0-3	7.20	22	0	0	20.0	25	11	22
76	Yaramil Hiraldo	R-R	6-1	180	12/31/95	**BALTIMORE**	0-0	4.58	18	0	0	19.2	17	9	21
						Norfolk (AAA)	1-0	4.17	25	1	1	36.2	31	12	55
	Andrew Kittredge	R-R	6-1	230	3/17/90	**BALTIMORE**	2-2	3.45	31	0	0	31.1	26	8	32
						CHICAGO NL	2-1	3.32	23	0	5	21.2	15	3	32
64	Dean Kremer	R-R	6-2	210	1/7/96	**BALTIMORE**	11-10	4.19	31	29	0	171.2	163	45	142
59	Chayce McDermott	L-R	6-3	197	8/22/98	**BALTIMORE**	0-1	15.58	4	1	0	8.2	12	12	9
						Norfolk (AAA)	2-7	6.21	25	10	1	58.0	59	42	60
	Anthony Nunez	S-R	6-2	225	7/10/01	Norfolk (AAA)	1-4	3.45	16	0	4	15.2	7	7	21
						Binghamton (AA)	1-0	2.10	22	0	4	25.2	12	12	36
						Brooklyn (A+)	1-1	0.63	10	0	1	14.1	3	5	24
37	Cade Povich	L-L	6-3	185	4/12/00	**BALTIMORE**	3-8	5.21	22	20	0	112.1	125	43	118
						Norfolk (AAA)	0-2	4.67	4	4	0	17.1	19	4	18
28	Trevor Rogers	L-L	6-5	217	11/13/97	**BALTIMORE**	9-3	1.81	18	18	0	109.2	70	29	103
						Norfolk (AAA)	0-3	5.46	7	7	0	29.2	38	8	26
60	Colin Selby	R-R	6-2	220	10/24/97	**BALTIMORE**	0-2	3.21	11	0	0	14.0	16	2	14
						Norfolk (AAA)	3-0	2.45	25	0	2	25.2	21	13	35
57	Kade Strowd	R-R	6-2	200	9/17/97	**BALTIMORE**	0-1	1.71	25	0	0	26.1	16	13	24
						Norfolk (AAA)	3-2	4.15	29	0	4	34.2	33	15	41
68	Tyler Wells	R-R	6-8	260	8/26/94	**BALTIMORE**	2-1	2.91	4	4	0	21.2	17	2	18
						Norfolk (AAA)	1-2	2.70	5	5	0	23.1	22	6	23
86	Grant Wolfram	L-L	6-7	240	12/12/96	**BALTIMORE**	3-1	5.40	21	0	0	26.2	35	15	31
						Norfolk (AAA)	1-4	3.38	26	0	0	29.1	27	9	33
63	Brandon Young	R-R	6-6	210	8/19/98	**BALTIMORE**	1-7	6.24	12	12	0	57.2	67	22	47
						Norfolk (AAA)	2-1	2.63	5	5	0	27.1	19	4	27

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
29	Samuel Basallo	L-R	6-4	180	8/13/04	**BALTIMORE**	.165	31	109	10	18	4	15	6	30	0
						Norfolk (AAA)	.270	76	270	49	73	23	67	44	76	0
35	Adley Rutschman	S-R	6-2	230	2/6/98	**BALTIMORE**	.220	90	322	37	71	9	29	40	57	0
						Norfolk (AAA)	.231	8	26	3	6	1	2	7	6	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
25	Pete Alonso	R-R	6-3	245	12/7/94	**NEW YORK NL**	.272	162	624	87	170	38	126	61	162	1
2	Gunnar Henderson	L-R	6-3	220	6/29/01	**BALTIMORE**	.274	154	577	85	158	17	68	62	137	30
						Norfolk (AAA)	.263	5	19	2	5	2	4	1	4	0
7	Jackson Holliday	L-R	6-0	185	12/4/03	**BALTIMORE**	.242	149	586	70	142	17	55	56	140	17
82	Jeremiah Jackson	R-R	5-11	165	3/26/00	**BALTIMORE**	.276	48	170	20	47	5	21	11	50	0
						Norfolk (AAA)	.377	40	162	29	61	11	22	6	20	9
						Chesapeake (AA)	.254	45	177	18	45	4	19	9	31	2
16	Coby Mayo	R-R	6-4	230	12/10/01	**BALTIMORE**	.217	85	263	30	57	11	28	27	84	3
						Norfolk (AAA)	.226	45	168	24	38	8	28	23	53	1
6	Ryan Mountcastle	R-R	6-3	220	2/18/97	**BALTIMORE**	.250	89	332	34	83	7	35	15	98	3
						Norfolk (AAA)	.387	9	31	8	12	3	10	5	5	0
11	Jordan Westburg	R-R	6-1	210	2/18/99	**BALTIMORE**	.265	85	328	59	87	17	41	17	80	1
						Norfolk (AAA)	.333	11	39	8	13	4	9	3	10	0

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
12	Dylan Beavers	L-R	6-5	206	8/11/01	**BALTIMORE**	.227	35	110	16	25	4	14	26	36	2
						Norfolk (AAA)	.304	94	342	78	104	18	51	68	76	23
17	Colton Cowser	L-R	6-3	220	3/20/00	**BALTIMORE**	.196	92	327	36	64	16	40	27	128	14
13	Heston Kjerstad	L-R	6-2	205	2/12/99	**BALTIMORE**	.192	54	156	16	30	4	19	6	45	1
						Norfolk (AAA)	.149	27	101	7	15	2	6	10	30	0
	Jhonkensy Noel	R-R	6-3	250	7/15/01	**CLEVELAND**	.162	69	148	19	24	6	13	4	52	0
						Columbus (AAA)	.273	61	227	22	62	12	39	21	67	0
9	Tyler O'Neill	R-R	5-10	200	6/22/95	**BALTIMORE**	.199	54	181	22	36	9	26	22	51	4
65	Leody Taveras	S-R	6-2	195	9/8/98	**TEXAS**	.241	30	79	7	19	1	8	2	23	6
						SEATTLE	.174	28	92	6	16	2	9	3	27	3
						Tacoma (AAA)	.280	81	325	62	91	11	69	41	57	27
	Reed Trimble	S-R	6-0	180	6/6/00	Norfolk (AAA)	.259	30	108	21	28	5	12	9	32	8
						Chesapeake (AA)	.257	53	187	34	48	10	30	22	47	13
						Aberdeen (A+)	.231	4	13	3	3	1	2	1	3	0
3	Taylor Ward	R-R	6-0	200	12/14/93	**LOS ANGELES AL**	.228	157	579	86	132	36	103	75	175	4

Boston RED SOX

2026 PREDICTION
3RD
AL EAST
2025 FINISH: 3RD (89-73)

Back when Theo Epstein ran the Red Sox, he repeated a slogan meant to keep his front office humble: “We don’t know (bleep).” The 2026 Red Sox would be wise to adopt a slightly altered version: “We haven’t done (bleep).” The Red Sox have tended to view minor successes as the final destination in recent years, breeding complacency that often precedes disaster. The task will be to build on last year’s playoff berth without taking a step back because nothing is guaranteed. Roman Anthony looks like a budding superstar, but development can often fly off track. The Red Sox have the pieces to challenge the Yankees and Blue Jays in the American League East — but only if they show up believing their work has just begun.

GARRETT CROCHET

BOB DECHIARA-IMAGN IMAGES

ROTATION

Building a rotation is a top-down endeavor, and the Red Sox nailed the first step when they acquired Garrett Crochet and then extended him last spring. Crochet’s presence limits the possibility of prolonged losing streaks, and there’s every reason to believe he’ll build on his 18-win, second-place Cy Young breakout. The rest of the rotation remains in flux. The Red Sox acquired three-time All-Star Sonny Gray from the Cardinals because they believe his batted-ball profile will keep fly balls in Fenway Park. Working against the 36-year-old: a 4.51 ERA during two disappointing seasons with the Yankees and an unsightly lifetime ERA of 6.84 in Boston. Brayan Bello returns with the hopes of finally putting together a complete season, though his inability to miss bats remains mystifying. The final spots in the rotation could be contested by two pitchers returning from injury in Kutter Crawford and Patrick Sandoval, as well as young lefties Payton Tolle and Connelly Early.

BULLPEN

Behold the Aroldis Chapman renaissance. At an age when he should’ve been embarking on the itinerant end to a borderline Hall of Fame career, Chapman instead re-emerged as baseball’s most unhittable force en route to a career-low 1.17 ERA that earned the 38-year-old an extension. The rest of the ’pen could be entirely right-handed, starting with Garrett Whitlock, who allowed just one earned run in the second half. From there, it will be a game of mix and match. Greg Weissert emerged as one of manager Alex Cora’s most trusted options despite not possessing power stuff. Justin Slaten looked like a closer in waiting in 2024 before injuries derailed his 2025. Offseason pickup Johan Oviedo served as a starter with the Pirates, but his 98 mph heat and solid slider make him intriguing for a relief role. There’s a chance that Tolle or Early lands here to give the pen a much-needed lefty.

MIDDLE INFIELD

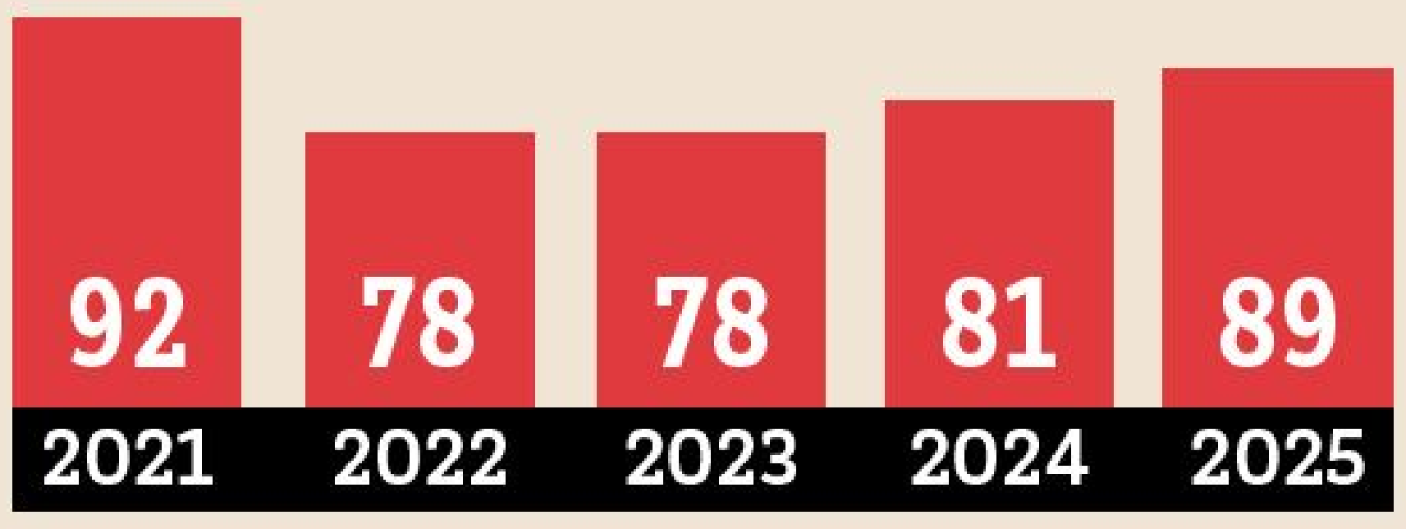
Red Sox fans haven’t always embraced the following sentiment since he signed in 2022, but thank God for Trevor Story. The veteran finally proved worthy of a $140 million investment by posting his best all-around season in Boston, with 25 homers and 31 steals. Even if his defense took a step back at short, he remains a stabilizing influence and clubhouse leader. Second base is a different story. Internal options include utility types like David Hamilton and Romy

Fenway Park

Opened: 1912 • Capacity: 37,755
Left: 310′ Center: 390′ Right: 302′
Tickets: 877-REDSOX9
mlb.com/REDSOX

◆

5-Year Win Trend



◆

Statline

Lowest FIP among qualified relievers, 2025

1. Aroldis Chapman, Red Sox	**1.73**
2. Cade Smith, Guardians	1.95
3. Garrett Whitlock, Red Sox	**2.18**
4. David Bednar, Pirates/Yankees	2.18
5. Justin Wrobleski, Dodgers	2.18

Gonzalez, as well as former top prospect Kristian Campbell, whose blistering April earned him a $60 million extension, followed by a brutal May and June that earned him a one-way ticket to the minors.

CORNERS

With the focus on free-agent sluggers like Pete Alonso and Kyle Schwarber at the start of the offseason, the Red Sox zagged and snagged Willson Contreras from the Cardinals in a trade. The former catcher is a solid right-handed bat at first base who's usually good for about 20 homers and 3.0 WAR. His arrival displaces incumbent Triston Casas, whom injuries have limited to just 92 games over the past two seasons. Across the diamond, the Red Sox entrusted third base to Alex Bregman in 2025, and he was everything they could've wanted before returning to free agency. The most likely internal candidate is youngster Marcelo Mayer, a defensive whiz with a little too much swing and miss who has also battled injuries.

ROMAN ANTHONY

ERIC HARTLINE-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

Welcome to a place of abundance. The Red Sox could potentially open the season with four starting-caliber outfielders, making a former MVP candidate the odd man out. Left fielder Roman Anthony, baseball's former No. 1 prospect, was everything the organization could've hoped for in his debut at 21 before suffering a season-ending oblique injury. He controlled the strike zone, hit in the clutch and looked like a future star. High-flying center fielder Ceddanne Rafaela won a Gold Glove despite spending 24 games at second base; his days as a super utility player are over. In right field, Wilyer Abreu won his second straight Gold Glove while playing with an intensity that recalled fan favorite Trot Nixon. That leaves speedster Jarren Duran as the odd man out and potentially the starting DH.

CATCHING

At this time last year, Carlos Narváez was only a household name in the Narváez household. That changed after a seemingly minor trade with the rival Yankees landed the Red Sox their starting catcher. Though he wore down in the second half, Narváez emerged as a trusted game-caller with a cannon arm and some right-handed thump. A Gold Glove finalist, he enters 2026 with a chance to establish himself as the long-term backstop of the future, which is an unexpected luxury for an organization that traded star catching prospect Kyle Teel to the White Sox in the Crochet deal. That leaves Connor Wong, the lone remaining piece of the Mookie Betts trade, as a backup.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

DH	Jarren Duran (L)
SS	Trevor Story (R)
LF	Roman Anthony (L)
1B	Willson Contreras (R)
RF	Wilyer Abreu (L)
C	Carlos Narváez (R)
3B	Marcelo Mayer (L)
2B	Romy Gonzalez (R)
CF	Ceddanne Rafaela (R)

■ BENCH

OF	Masataka Yoshida (L)
C	Connor Wong (R)
INF	David Hamilton (L)
1B	Triston Casas (L)
INF	Nick Sogard (S)

■ ROTATION

LHP	Garrett Crochet
RHP	Sonny Gray
RHP	Brayan Bello
RHP	Kutter Crawford
LHP	Connelly Early

■ BULLPEN

LHP	Aroldis Chapman (C)
RHP	Garrett Whitlock
RHP	Justin Slaten
RHP	Johan Oviedo
RHP	Greg Weissert
RHP	Jordan Hicks
LHP	Payton Tolle

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE RED SOX "You know what's funny about Boston? You never see a Red Sox team without a few big home run guys, and they just don't have any. But it was great to see Trevor Story stay healthy and kind of reestablish himself; you don't see many guys over 30 as fast as he is. They're a fun team to watch in the outfield, with Ceddanne Rafaela and Wilyer Abreu running everything down. Roman Anthony has a tremendous approach — he's a superstar, no doubt — and Romy Gonzalez is one of the most impactful utility guys in baseball. Garrett Crochet is a top-three pitcher in baseball — he looks like he's right on top of you, 6-foot-6 with that funky delivery and his right foot sticking out at an odd angle. Brayan Bello seemed to be coming into his own last year, but they don't really trust him; I didn't like how they pulled him so early in the playoffs. Sonny Gray is a tough competitor in the middle of the rotation, and they've got some intriguing young options with Connelly Early and Payton Tolle. It's an interesting team with a real shot at the division if they can find a way to bash with the Yankees and Blue Jays."

DH/BENCH

For two decades, the Red Sox gave little thought to DH, with David Ortiz effectively handing the baton to J.D. Martinez. Just when it appeared the torch would pass to Rafael Devers, the Red Sox shipped their uncooperative slugger to the Giants. Now, the spot could feature a pair of displaced veterans. It feels like a waste to put an athlete as explosive as Duran there, but the outfield already includes three better defenders. There's also Casas, a hulking slugger who represents the roster's best shot at a 40-homer season, although he can't stay healthy. Outfielder Masataka Yoshida has Cora's confidence and will get a chance as well. As for the rest of the bench, Cora has some versatile options in infielders Hamilton and Nick Sogard, as well as super-utility Nate Eaton.

MANAGEMENT

Chief baseball officer Craig Breslow majored in molecular biophysics and biochemistry at Yale. The Red Sox had best hope he also studied some history. The last time they energized their fans with as surprising a postseason run as 2025, they almost immediately squandered the goodwill en route to last-place finishes in 2022 and 2023. The wild-card series loss vs. the Yankees highlighted Boston's deficiencies: a shaky defense, meager right-handed thump and the lack of a No. 2 starter. If Breslow can stay on top of the roster, he's got one of the best managers in the game calling the shots. Cora has won titles as a player, coach and manager, and it sure feels like the youth movement has rekindled his competitive fires, too.

FINAL ANALYSIS

Development is not always linear, especially when the foundation is built around prospects. It took five years for the Betts- and Xander Bogaerts-led Red Sox to build a juggernaut, and there were some ups and downs along the way. There's a lot of firepower to contend with in the division in the form of the Yankees and Blue Jays. Now is not the time for complacency. The American League East is too good, and if the Red Sox aren't careful, they'll backslide.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

CHIP(PER) OFF THE OLD BLOCK Ceddanne Rafaela's parents are baseball junkies, which is reflected in his full name: Ceddanne Chipper Nicasio Marte Rafaela. "Chipper" is an homage to the Hall of Fame third baseman Chipper Jones, whose Atlanta Braves games aired constantly in Rafaela's home on Curaçao. Rafaela's parents, Rechilena and Cezan, tuned in to catch the exploits of countryman Andruw Jones and took a liking to his switch-hitting teammate. Meanwhile, Rafaela plays center field in a manner that the 10-time Gold Glover Andruw Jones has praised as "fearless."

ROMAN-HOLLIDAY Two of this decade's most highly touted rookies share a history that predates their burgeoning American League East rivalry. Red Sox outfielder Roman Anthony and Orioles second baseman Jackson Holliday first squared off on the Florida travel ball circuit as middle schoolers, and their friendship blossomed after Holliday moved to Oklahoma when his dad, seven-time All-Star Matt Holliday, became the hitting coach at Oklahoma State. Anthony visited the Midwest for workouts, and now the two are tickled to face each other in the big leagues. "He's had this in him since he was 15," Holliday says. "Hopefully we get to compete against each other for a long time."

EARLY SIGNS Connelly Early's draft card says University of Virginia, but his formative experiences actually came at West Point. Early spent two years at the prestigious military academy, and he credits his time there for instilling the discipline and work ethic that helped him reach the big leagues just two years after being selected in the fifth round of the 2023 draft. That Early would embrace Army life should come as no surprise — his father and grandparents served, and his brother attended the Air Force Academy.

Schedule

🟥 HOME ⬜ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 ⬜ CIN	27	28 ⬜ CIN
29 ⬜ CIN	30 ⬜ HOU	31 ⬜ HOU	1 ⬜ HOU	2	3 🟥 SD	4 🟥 SD
5 🟥 SD	6 🟥 MIL	7 🟥 MIL	8 🟥 MIL	9	10 ⬜ STL	11 ⬜ STL
12 ⬜ STL	13 ⬜ MIN	14 ⬜ MIN	15 ⬜ MIN	16	17 🟥 DET	18 🟥 DET
19 🟥 DET	20 🟥 DET	21 🟥 NYY	22 🟥 NYY	23 🟥 NYY	24 ⬜ BAL	25 ⬜ BAL
26 ⬜ BAL	27 ⬜ TOR	28 ⬜ TOR	29 ⬜ TOR	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 🟥 HOU	2 🟥 HOU
3 🟥 HOU	4 ⬜ DET	5 ⬜ DET	6 ⬜ DET	7 🟥 TB	8 🟥 TB	9 🟥 TB
10 🟥 TB	11	12 🟥 PHI	13 🟥 PHI	14 🟥 PHI	15 ⬜ ATL	16 ⬜ ATL
17 ⬜ ATL	18 ⬜ KC	19 ⬜ KC	20 ⬜ KC	21	22 🟥 MIN	23 🟥 MIN
24 🟥 MIN	25	26 🟥 ATL	27 🟥 ATL	28 🟥 ATL	29 ⬜ CLE	30 ⬜ CLE
31 ⬜ CLE						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2 🟥 BAL	3 🟥 BAL	4 🟥 BAL	5 ⬜ NYY	6 ⬜ NYY
7 ⬜ NYY	8 ⬜ TB	9 ⬜ TB	10 ⬜ TB	11	12 🟥 TEX	13 🟥 TEX
14 🟥 TEX	15	16 🟥 TOR	17 🟥 TOR	18 🟥 TOR	19	20 ⬜ SEA
21 ⬜ SEA	22 ⬜ COL	23 ⬜ COL	24 ⬜ COL	25 🟥 NYY	26 🟥 NYY	27 🟥 NYY
28 🟥 NYY	29 🟥 WAS	30 🟥 WAS				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 🟥 WAS	2	3 ⬜ LAA	4 ⬜ LAA
5 ⬜ LAA	6	7 ⬜ CWS	8 ⬜ CWS	9 ⬜ CWS	10 ⬜ NYM	11 ⬜ NYM
12 ⬜ NYM	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 🟥 TB	18 🟥 TB
19 🟥 TB	20 🟥 BAL	21 🟥 BAL	22 🟥 BAL	23	24 🟥 TOR	25 🟥 TOR
26 🟥 TOR	27 ⬜ A's	28 ⬜ A's	29 ⬜ A's	30 ⬜ A's	31 ⬜ LAD	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 ⬜ LAD
2 ⬜ LAD	3	4 🟥 CWS	5 🟥 CWS	6 🟥 CWS	7 🟥 A's	8 🟥 A's
9 🟥 A's	10 ⬜ TOR	11 ⬜ TOR	12 ⬜ TOR	13 ⬜ TOR	14 ⬜ PIT	15 ⬜ PIT
16 ⬜ PIT	17 🟥 ARI	18 🟥 ARI	19 🟥 ARI	20	21 🟥 SF	22 🟥 SF
23 🟥 SF	24 ⬜ MIA	25 ⬜ MIA	26 ⬜ MIA	27	28 ⬜ NYY	29 ⬜ NYY
30 ⬜ NYY	31 🟥 SEA					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 🟥 SEA	2 🟥 SEA	3 ⬜ BAL	4 ⬜ BAL	5 ⬜ BAL
6 ⬜ BAL	7 🟥 LAA	8 🟥 LAA	9 🟥 LAA	10	11 🟥 KC	12 🟥 KC
13 🟥 KC	14	15 ⬜ TEX	16 ⬜ TEX	17 ⬜ TEX	18 ⬜ TB	19 ⬜ TB
20 ⬜ TB	21	22 🟥 CLE	23 🟥 CLE	24 🟥 CLE	25 🟥 CHC	26 🟥 CHC
27 🟥 CHC	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

4 Ejections Alex Cora needs to tie Terry Francona for the most of any Red Sox manager (25).

◆

2.51 Garrett Whitlock's lifetime ERA as a reliever, vs. 4.29 as a starter.

◆

2.2 Aroldis Chapman's career-low walks per nine innings last year, less than half his lifetime rate of 4.5.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

RICK SCUTERI-IMAGN IMAGES

1. Payton Tolle, LHP (23) Power lefty needs to develop secondary stuff to stick in the rotation.

2. Franklin Arias, SS (20) System's best defensive shortstop earns comparisons to Marcelo Mayer for all-around game.

3. Connelly Early, LHP (23) Isn't overpowering but has tremendous feel for pitching.

4. Kyson Witherspoon, RHP (21) Fifteenth overall pick last year boasts swing-and-miss stuff, 99 mph fastball.

5. Juan Valera, RHP (19) Signed for a song, Valera has impressed Red Sox with mound presence.

6. Justin Gonzalez, OF (19) Bigger than his listed (6-4, 210), he possesses excellent raw power.

7. Mikey Romero, INF (22) Profiles as utilityman, if he can improve his contact rate.

8. Dorian Soto, SS (18) Prize of last year's international signing class has a high ceiling.

9. Jake Bennett, LHP (25) Changeup is this 6-foot-6 southpaw's best pitch.

10. Marcus Phillips, RHP (21) His game is all about power and a fastball that touches 100 mph.

Red Sox Roster

Chief Baseball Officer: Craig Breslow • **Manager:** Alex Cora • **Coaches:** Andrew Bailey (pitching), José David Flores (first base/infield instructor), Peter Fatse (hitting), Chris Holt (bullpen), Kyle Hudson (third base/outfield instructor), Dillon Lawson (asst. hitting), John Soteropulos (asst. hitting), Jason Varitek (game planning and run prevention), Ramón Vázquez (bench)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
66	Brayan Bello	R-R	6-1	195	5/17/99	**BOSTON**	**11-9**	**3.35**	**29**	**28**	**0**	**166.2**	**147**	**59**	**124**
						Worcester (AAA)	0-2	6.52	3	3	0	9.2	12	3	14
						Portland (AA)	0-0	8.31	1	1	0	4.1	6	1	7
	Jake Bennett	L-L	6-6	234	12/2/00	Harrisburg (AA)	1-2	2.56	10	9	0	45.2	40	11	33
						Wilmington (A+)	1-2	1.90	7	7	0	23.2	17	8	24
						Fredericksburg (A)	0-1	1.50	2	2	0	6.0	5	0	7
44	Aroldis Chapman	L-L	6-4	235	2/28/88	**BOSTON**	**5-3**	**1.17**	**67**	**0**	**32**	**61.1**	**28**	**15**	**85**
50	Kutter Crawford	R-R	6-1	195	4/1/96	Injured — Missed Season									
35	Garrett Crochet	L-L	6-6	245	6/21/99	**BOSTON**	**18-5**	**2.59**	**32**	**32**	**0**	**205.1**	**165**	**46**	**255**
	Shane Drohan	L-L	6-3	195	1/7/99	Worcester (AAA)	5-1	2.27	12	11	0	47.2	32	16	67
						Greenville (A+)	0-1	8.53	3	3	0	6.1	8	5	10
71	Connelly Early	L-L	6-3	195	4/3/02	**BOSTON**	**1-2**	**2.33**	**4**	**4**	**0**	**19.1**	**17**	**4**	**29**
						Worcester (AAA)	3-1	2.83	6	6	0	28.2	19	11	36
						Portland (AA)	7-2	2.51	15	12	0	71.2	52	29	96
54	Sonny Gray	R-R	5-10	190	11/7/89	**ST. LOUIS**	**14-8**	**4.28**	**32**	**32**	**0**	**180.2**	**185**	**38**	**201**
38	Kyle Harrison	R-L	6-2	209	8/12/01	**BOSTON**	**0-0**	**3.00**	**3**	**2**	**0**	**12.0**	**14**	**5**	**13**
						Worcester (AAA)	4-2	3.75	12	12	0	50.1	53	27	50
						SAN FRANCISCO	**1-1**	**4.56**	**8**	**4**	**0**	**23.2**	**21**	**9**	**25**
						Sacramento (AAA)	1-0	3.46	6	6	0	26.0	26	8	38
46	Jordan Hicks	R-R	6-2	217	9/6/96	**BOSTON**	**1-2**	**8.20**	**21**	**0**	**2**	**18.2**	**25**	**12**	**15**
						Worcester (AAA)	0-0	10.80	2	1	0	1.2	4	2	2
						SAN FRANCISCO	**1-5**	**6.47**	**13**	**9**	**0**	**48.2**	**55**	**20**	**43**
89	Tanner Houck	R-R	6-5	226	6/29/96	**BOSTON**	**0-3**	**8.04**	**9**	**9**	**0**	**43.2**	**57**	**17**	**32**
						Worcester (AAA)	0-3	8.44	4	3	0	10.2	15	6	11
						Portland (AA)	1-0	0.00	1	1	0	5.0	3	0	4
76	Zack Kelly	R-R	6-3	231	3/3/95	**BOSTON**	**1-3**	**4.58**	**28**	**0**	**0**	**35.1**	**35**	**12**	**35**
						Worcester (AAA)	1-1	6.15	21	1	3	26.1	23	20	30
						Greenville (A+)	0-0	0.00	2	1	0	2.0	0	0	2
47	Jovani Morán	L-L	6-1	167	4/24/97	**BOSTON**	**0-0**	**6.75**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**4.0**	**5**	**3**	**5**
						Worcester (AAA)	1-2	3.58	20	1	0	27.2	33	5	40
						Greenville (A+)	0-2	5.79	4	2	0	4.2	4	3	11
						FCL Red Sox (R)	0-0	3.00	2	2	0	3.0	1	2	6
29	Johan Oviedo	R-R	6-6	275	3/2/98	**PITTSBURGH**	**2-1**	**3.57**	**9**	**9**	**0**	**40.1**	**26**	**23**	**42**
						Indianapolis (AAA)	0-0	2.63	3	3	0	13.2	8	3	20
						Altoona (AA)	1-0	2.16	2	2	0	8.1	7	0	8
						Bradenton (A)	0-1	2.70	2	2	0	3.1	2	4	7
						FCL Pirates (R)	0-1	27.00	1	1	0	0.2	3	0	1
	Tyler Samaniego	R-L	6-4	205	1/30/99	Altoona (AA)	1-1	3.08	20	0	3	26.1	18	6	30
						Greensboro (A+)	1-0	3.86	6	0	0	7.0	3	3	6
						Bradenton (A)	1-1	13.50	2	0	0	2.2	6	1	3
						FCL Pirates (R)	0-1	3.86	2	1	0	2.1	2	1	5
	David Sandlin	R-R	6-4	215	2/21/01	Worcester (AAA)	4-2	7.61	15	1	0	23.2	35	13	21
						Portland (AA)	5-4	3.61	17	13	0	82.1	70	27	86
43	Patrick Sandoval	L-L	6-3	190	10/18/96	Injured — Missed Season									
63	Justin Slaten	R-R	6-4	222	9/15/97	**BOSTON**	**2-4**	**4.24**	**36**	**0**	**3**	**34.0**	**27**	**10**	**25**
						Worcester (AAA)	1-0	0.00	3	0	0	3.0	1	1	5
70	Payton Tolle	L-L	6-6	250	11/1/02	**BOSTON**	**0-1**	**6.06**	**7**	**3**	**0**	**16.1**	**18**	**8**	**19**
						Worcester (AAA)	1-1	3.60	3	3	0	15.0	11	2	17
						Portland (AA)	1-1	1.67	6	5	1	27.0	13	7	37
						Greenville (A+)	1-3	3.62	11	10	0	49.2	44	14	79
	Tyler Uberstine	R-R	6-1	200	6/1/99	Worcester (AAA)	6-4	3.56	19	15	0	91.0	84	37	102
						Portland (AA)	0-1	3.64	6	6	0	29.2	27	4	35
	Ryan Watson	R-R	6-5	225	11/15/97	Sacramento (AAA)	4-3	4.26	46	0	9	50.2	58	16	64
57	Greg Weissert	R-R	6-2	235	2/4/95	**BOSTON**	**6-6**	**2.82**	**72**	**0**	**4**	**67.0**	**57**	**21**	**57**
22	Garrett Whitlock	R-R	6-5	222	6/11/96	**BOSTON**	**7-3**	**2.25**	**62**	**0**	**1**	**72.0**	**54**	**24**	**91**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
75	Carlos Narváez	R-R	6-0	190	11/26/98	**BOSTON**	**.241**	**118**	**403**	**51**	**97**	**15**	**50**	**38**	**111**	**1**
12	Connor Wong	R-R	5-10	190	5/19/96	**BOSTON**	**.190**	**63**	**168**	**16**	**32**	**0**	**7**	**16**	**42**	**2**
						Worcester (AAA)	.364	3	11	2	4	1	3	2	2	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
28	Kristian Campbell	R-R	6-3	191	6/28/02	**BOSTON**	**.223**	**67**	**229**	**24**	**51**	**6**	**21**	**29**	**72**	**2**
						Worcester (AAA)	.273	73	271	46	74	8	38	38	84	4
36	Triston Casas	L-R	6-4	244	1/15/00	**BOSTON**	**.182**	**29**	**99**	**5**	**18**	**3**	**11**	**11**	**27**	**0**
40	Willson Contreras	R-R	6-1	240	5/13/92	**ST. LOUIS**	**.257**	**135**	**490**	**70**	**126**	**20**	**80**	**44**	**142**	**5**
18	Nate Eaton	R-R	5-11	200	12/22/96	**BOSTON**	**.296**	**41**	**81**	**16**	**24**	**1**	**4**	**6**	**19**	**9**
						Worcester (AAA)	.290	94	348	64	101	12	55	37	88	15
23	Romy Gonzalez	R-R	6-0	215	9/6/96	**BOSTON**	**.305**	**96**	**315**	**47**	**96**	**9**	**53**	**18**	**81**	**6**
						Worcester (AAA)	.000	2	7	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Tristan Gray	L-R	6-1	215	3/22/96	**TAMPA BAY**	**.231**	**30**	**78**	**9**	**18**	**3**	**9**	**6**	**19**	**0**
						Charlotte (AAA)	.270	72	248	40	67	9	44	24	67	3
17	David Hamilton	L-R	5-11	188	9/29/97	**BOSTON**	**.198**	**91**	**177**	**27**	**35**	**6**	**19**	**13**	**47**	**22**
						Worcester (AAA)	.282	9	39	9	11	2	4	5	6	6
11	Marcelo Mayer	L-R	6-3	188	12/12/02	**BOSTON**	**.228**	**44**	**127**	**20**	**29**	**4**	**10**	**8**	**41**	**0**
						Worcester (AAA)	.271	43	170	31	46	9	43	20	38	2
20	Nick Sogard	S-R	6-1	189	9/9/97	**BOSTON**	**.260**	**30**	**96**	**13**	**25**	**0**	**9**	**5**	**24**	**2**
						Worcester (AAA)	.276	91	340	64	94	5	28	64	73	16
10	Trevor Story	R-R	6-1	209	11/15/92	**BOSTON**	**.263**	**157**	**612**	**91**	**161**	**25**	**96**	**33**	**176**	**31**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
52	Wilyer Abreu	L-L	5-10	215	6/24/99	**BOSTON**	**.247**	**115**	**373**	**53**	**92**	**22**	**69**	**40**	**101**	**6**
						Worcester (AAA)	.167	2	6	1	1	0	1	1	2	0
19	Roman Anthony	L-R	6-3	200	5/13/04	**BOSTON**	**.292**	**71**	**257**	**48**	**75**	**8**	**32**	**40**	**84**	**4**
						Worcester (AAA)	.288	58	212	45	61	10	29	51	56	3
16	Jarren Duran	L-R	6-1	205	9/5/96	**BOSTON**	**.256**	**157**	**620**	**86**	**159**	**16**	**84**	**60**	**169**	**24**
3	Ceddanne Rafaela	R-R	5-10	165	9/18/00	**BOSTON**	**.249**	**156**	**546**	**84**	**136**	**16**	**63**	**28**	**117**	**20**
7	Masataka Yoshida	L-R	5-8	192	7/15/93	**BOSTON**	**.266**	**55**	**188**	**16**	**50**	**4**	**26**	**10**	**24**	**3**
						Worcester (AAA)	.200	2	5	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
						Portland (AA)	.333	3	9	1	3	0	3	1	1	0

New York YANKEES

2026 PREDICTION
2ND
AL EAST
2025 FINISH: 2ND (94-68)

So it wasn't the winter spend-fest that many Yankee fans wanted following last October's exit in the division series. The Yankees, backed by the incomparable Aaron Judge and several rotation diamonds, still should be a huge factor in the American League East, even as the other contenders upgraded to make it more rugged.

They'll miss Cody Bellinger's bat and versatility, but the Yanks have a potential young ace in Cam Schlittler, an emerging slugger in Ben Rice, a 30/30 second baseman who also brings needed swag in Jazz Chisholm Jr. and one of the best pitchers in baseball in Max Fried. And Gerrit Cole is due back in May or June, which adds oomph to the idea that 2026 can be another big season in the Bronx.

AARON JUDGE

VINCENT CARCHIETTA-IMAGN IMAGES

ROTATION

With Cole, the longtime ace, and Carlos Rodón delayed as they recover from surgeries, Fried is the clear No. 1. He's been worth every dime of the eight-year, $218 million deal he signed before last season, leading MLB in wins (19) and throwing a career-best 195.1 innings while recording a 2.86 ERA. Schlittler used a five-pitch repertoire to notch a 2.96 ERA over 14 starts in his debut season and then shined in the playoffs. In the wild-card round, in a winner-take-all Game 3 vs. the Red Sox, Schlittler became the first pitcher in MLB history to throw eight scoreless innings and strike out at least 12 while walking none in a postseason game. Righty Luis Gil, the 2024 AL Rookie of the Year, made only 11 starts in 2025 because of a right lat strain, but he still exudes potential with weaponry like a hard changeup and a 95 mph fastball. He needs to trim his 13.5% walk rate (8.4% is the MLB average). Will Warren's deceptive 93.3 mph fastball sparkled, ranking in the 95th percentile in run value, via Baseball Savant. Until Cole or Rodón returns, lefty side-armer Ryan Yarbrough figures to get rotation work. He's a master at avoiding hard contact, ranking in the top 3% of lowest average exit velocity allowed in eight straight seasons. Cole and Rodón will provide a big boost when they return. Rodón had an elite 2025, allowing 6.1 hits per nine innings, best in the AL, and recording a 3.09 ERA.

BULLPEN

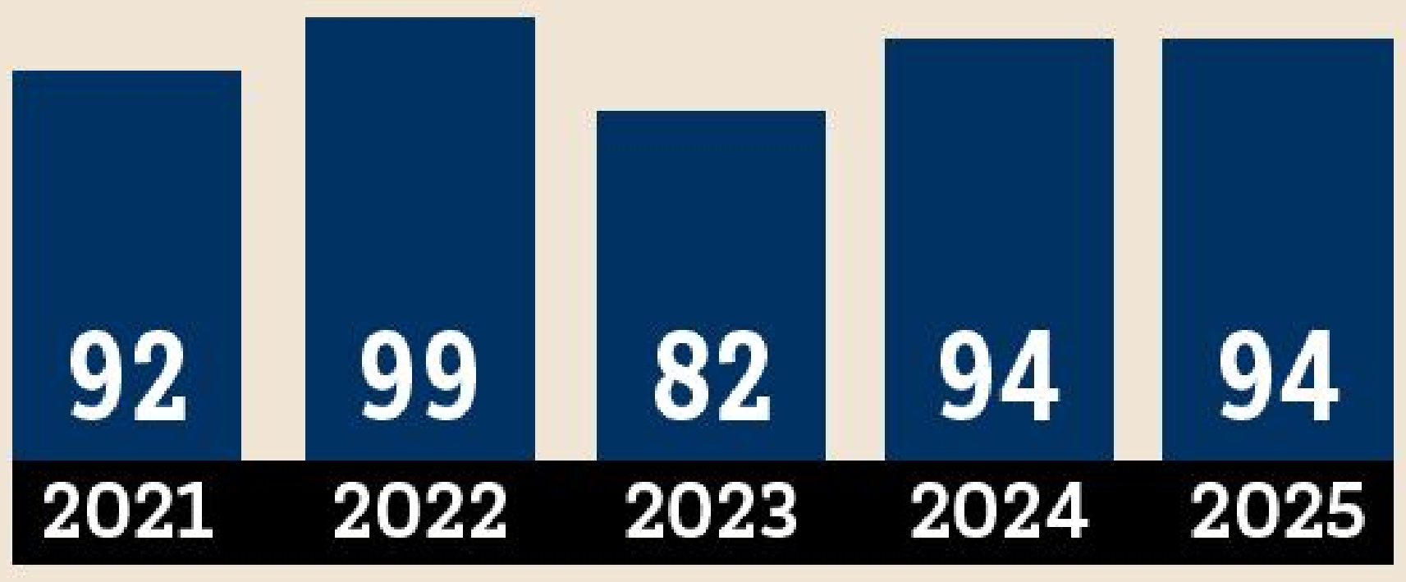
The Yanks spent the 2025 trade deadline looking to upgrade their bullpen for the present and future. That's why their three key relief acquisitions all had control remaining and why the Yanks let holdovers Devin Williams and Luke Weaver, who both lost the closer's job, sign with the crosstown rival Mets. David Bednar and Camilo Doval are now key relievers, and Jake Bird, who stumbled upon arrival from Colorado and was sent down, is likely to re-emerge. Bednar, acquired from the Pirates, is entrenched as the closer and was 4-0 with 10 saves and a 2.19 ERA in 22 games and a 1.50 ERA in five postseason outings. Doval's slider, which had a strong 41.1% whiff rate, likely makes him a trusted setup choice, though he must smooth out his command issues. Fernando Cruz is a dynamite holdover, with a splitter that is one of the deadliest pitches in baseball. No single pitch had a whiff rate higher than Cruz's split (56.6%), according to Baseball

Yankee Stadium

Opened: 2009 • Capacity: 46,537
Left: 318′ Center: 408′ Right: 314′
Tickets: 877-469-9849
mlb.com/YANKEES

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Largest team home run per fly ball rate, 2025

1. Yankees	**15.9%**
2. Angels	15.2%
3. Mariners	14.6%
4. Mets	14.4%
5. Dodgers	14.4%

Savant. The Yankees re-signed lefty Tim Hill, who held fellow lefties to a .444 OPS last year as he bloomed. Righty Paul Blackburn returns to provide swingman depth.

MIDDLE INFIELD

Chisholm is coming off a 31-homer, 31-steal season and a second career All-Star nod. He had an .813 OPS and hit a big postseason homer, giving the Yanks the lead for good in their only win over the Toronto Blue Jays in the ALDS. He strikes out a lot and has heard criticism for defensive lapses, but he brings verve to the corporate Yanks. Shortstop Anthony Volpe faces a career crossroads after his defense regressed and he failed again to make an offensive leap. And he'll start the season late after shoulder surgery. He can slug and run, but he must offer more than his meager .222 career average and .662 OPS. Speedy José Caballero will likely start while Volpe recovers and could change the position paradigm if he excels.

CORNERS

Rice figures to be the regular first baseman, and his powerful lefty bat certainly fits the position's profile. The patient hitter packs a punch, smacking 26 homers in 467 at-bats. His hard-hit rate ranked seventh in MLB, and some of the names in front of him were Kyle Schwarber, Shohei Ohtani and Judge. Select company. One concern — will he hit lefties enough? Rice also needs to overhaul his defense, which lags well behind his bat. Third baseman Ryan McMahon is an often-spectacular defender and has some pop, too. He has hit at least 20 home runs in each of the past six full MLB seasons and, as a lefty swinger, might tick upward once he gains expertise on exploiting Yankee Stadium's short porch. But he strikes out way too much — his 32.3% strikeout rate was MLB's worst.

OUTFIELD

Judge is a historic offensive player who led MLB in average, on-base, slugging and OPS and, oh by the way, hit 53 home runs. He's only the third player ever to win a batting title and hit 50-plus bombs in the same season, joining Jimmie Foxx (1938) and Mickey Mantle (1956). He's also a valuable defender in right field. Trent Grisham accepted the $22.05 million qualifying offer, so he returns to play center after a breakout season in which he slugged a career-best 34

GERRIT COLE

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

CF	Trent Grisham (L)
RF	Aaron Judge (R)
1B	Ben Rice (L)
DH	Giancarlo Stanton (R)
2B	Jazz Chisholm Jr. (L)
LF	Jasson Domínguez (S)
3B	Ryan McMahon (L)
SS	José Caballero (R)
C	Austin Wells (L)

■ BENCH

C	J.C. Escarra (L)
UTIL	Oswaldo Cabrera (S)
UTIL	Amed Rosario (R)
OF	Spencer Jones (L)

■ ROTATION

LHP	Max Fried
RHP	Luis Gil
RHP	Cam Schlittler
RHP	Will Warren
LHP	Ryan Yarbrough

■ BULLPEN

RHP	David Bednar (C)
RHP	Camilo Doval
RHP	Fernando Cruz
LHP	Tim Hill
RHP	Jake Bird
RHP	Paul Blackburn
RHP	Yerry De los Santos
LHP	Brent Headrick

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE YANKEES "They need to find out if they can rely on their homegrown position players for the long term. Ben Rice has ridiculous power, but Austin Wells didn't hit last year, and Anthony Volpe — my God, has he regressed. Now he's coming off an operation, and I hope that's the answer. Jasson Domínguez hasn't shown he can hit from the right side, and Spencer Jones is almost 25, so it's time to see what he can do in New York. Ryan McMahon made a huge impact with his glove at third base, and that's what keeps him in the lineup because he's not a great hitter and strikes out a ton. I don't know why the defensive numbers say Trent Grisham's not a good center fielder; I think he's terrific. I don't know if he's going to hit 34 home runs again, but 20-25 would be fine. They've got enough in the rotation to wait on Gerrit Cole and Carlos Rodón to come back, hopefully early in the season. Max Fried is an ace, and I can't wait to see Cam Schlittler after that game against Boston in the playoffs. He just has no fear, and he's smart enough to listen to the older guys and make himself even better."

JONATHAN DYER-IMAGN IMAGES

homers. The Yanks believe in the swing changes that "The Big Sleep" — Grisham's nickname because of his laid-back vibe — made, though fans are right to wonder if he can replicate it. Jasson Domínguez figures to get the first crack at reps in left, though mega-prospect Spencer Jones might finally get a chance, too. Domínguez earned lukewarm reviews in his rookie season (10 homers, 23 steals, .719 OPS). Can he provide more? We'll see, but there's talent there. Jones, meanwhile, has dazzling power but plenty of swing-and-miss, too.

CATCHING

Austin Wells is the durable incumbent who caught the most games (122) in the AL while notching 21 home runs and 71 RBIs. Behind the plate, he's an expert pitch framer and threw out 25.3% of runners trying to steal, above MLB average. He needs to be less all-or-nothing on offense, a complaint that runs through the Yankee lineup. He batted only .219 with a .275 on-base percentage.

DH/BENCH

At this point in his career, Giancarlo Stanton, 36, is unlikely to play a full slate of games. But he can still flex power, as he did with 24 homers in only 249 at-bats last year. So the Yanks will get DH production, but they also need some help for that slot. That could give Jones, a lefty hitter, some platoon chances. Amed Rosario offers a righty bench bat. Oswaldo Cabrera, a switch-hitter, returns from injury and offers positional versatility as well as an effervescence that lights up his teammates. Lefty hitter J.C. Escarra should be the backup catcher.

MANAGEMENT

Aaron Boone is one of two active managers to have reached the playoffs in at least seven of his first eight seasons as a manager (Dave Roberts is the other). And general manager Brian Cashman notched his 2,500th career regular-season victory in 2025. Still, there's plenty of fan grumbling about the Yankees' C-suite, mostly tied to the club's one World Series appearance since the last title in 2009. To Cashman's and Boone's credit, though, the Yanks always threaten.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The core is mostly unchanged from a team that reached the playoffs in '25 but made little noise there or in the offseason. Can this group go further? Maybe. But Judge must stay healthy again, Schlittler must be real and Rice must soar. The Yanks will try to fill needs at the deadline, like always. Will that be enough?

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

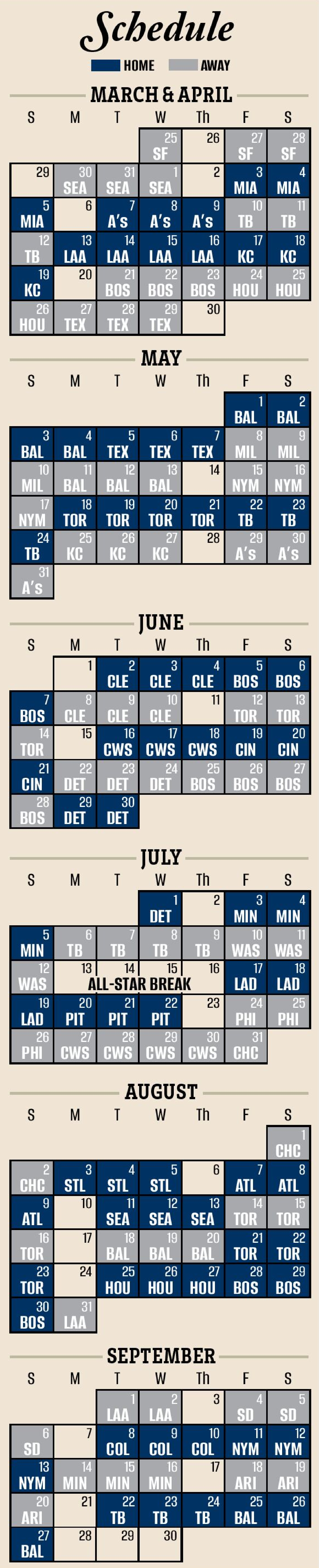
HOME RUN ROYALTY In 2026, Aaron Judge is in position to do something never accomplished in MLB — hit 50-plus home runs in a season for a fifth time in a career. Last season, Judge became the fourth ever to hit 50 or more four times, joining Babe Ruth, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa.

JUST WIN, BABY Last season was the Yankees' 33rd consecutive winning season (since 1993), giving them the second-longest such streak in the history of the four major North American sports. Only the Yankees from 1926-64 (39 seasons) had a longer streak.

CLUTCH GENE Trent Grisham ranked highly in several measurements of "clutch" in 2025. Can he repeat it? Nineteen of his 34 homers either tied the score or gave the Yankees the lead; he had a .920 OPS in high-leverage situations, per Baseball Reference; and he ranked eighth in MLB in FanGraphs' clutch metric.

MAX CAPACITY With the Yanks having to wait for Gerrit Cole and Carlos Rodón to rejoin the rotation during the season, it's a good thing Max Fried is in place to lead the starters. Since 2020, he's first in ERA (2.82) and tied for first in wins (73) among MLB pitchers with at least 600 innings.

Schedule



🟦 HOME ⬜ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25 SF	26	27 SF	28 SF
29	30 SEA	31 SEA	1 SEA	2	3 MIA	4 MIA
5 MIA	6	7 A's	8 A's	9 A's	10 TB	11 TB
12 TB	13 LAA	14 LAA	15 LAA	16 LAA	17 KC	18 KC
19 KC	20	21 BOS	22 BOS	23 BOS	24 HOU	25 HOU
26 HOU	27 TEX	28 TEX	29 TEX	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 BAL	2 BAL
3 BAL	4 BAL	5 TEX	6 TEX	7 TEX	8 MIL	9 MIL
10 MIL	11 BAL	12 BAL	13 BAL	14	15 NYM	16 NYM
17 NYM	18 TOR	19 TOR	20 TOR	21 TOR	22 TB	23 TB
24 TB	25 KC	26 KC	27 KC	28	29 A's	30 A's
31 A's						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2 CLE	3 CLE	4 CLE	5 BOS	6 BOS
7 BOS	8 CLE	9 CLE	10 CLE	11	12 TOR	13 TOR
14 TOR	15	16 CWS	17 CWS	18 CWS	19 CIN	20 CIN
21 CIN	22 DET	23 DET	24 DET	25 BOS	26 BOS	27 BOS
28 BOS	29 DET	30 DET				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 DET	2	3 MIN	4 MIN
5 MIN	6 TB	7 TB	8 TB	9 TB	10 WAS	11 WAS
12 WAS	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 LAD	18 LAD
19 LAD	20 PIT	21 PIT	22 PIT	23	24 PHI	25 PHI
26 PHI	27 CWS	28 CWS	29 CWS	30 CWS	31 CHC	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 CHC
2 CHC	3 STL	4 STL	5 STL	6	7 ATL	8 ATL
9 ATL	10	11 SEA	12 SEA	13 SEA	14 TOR	15 TOR
16 TOR	17	18 BAL	19 BAL	20 BAL	21 TOR	22 TOR
23 TOR	24	25 HOU	26 HOU	27 HOU	28 BOS	29 BOS
30 BOS	31 LAA					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 LAA	2 LAA	3	4 SD	5 SD
6 SD	7	8 COL	9 COL	10 COL	11 NYM	12 NYM
13 NYM	14 MIN	15 MIN	16 MIN	17	18 ARI	19 ARI
20 ARI	21	22 TB	23 TB	24 TB	25 BAL	26 BAL
27 BAL	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

11 Framing runs recorded by Yankees catcher Austin Wells, tied for third-best in MLB, according to Baseball Savant.

◆

113 Runs scored in the first inning by the Yankees last year, best in MLB. They set an MLB record with 50 first-inning home runs.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

KIM KLEMENT NEITZEL-IMAGN IMAGES

1. George Lombard Jr., SS (20) Patient hitter is developing offensively and is a glove whiz.

2. Spencer Jones, OF (24) Massive power (35 homers last year), but contact concerns loom.

3. Elmer Rodríguez, RHP (22) Nice blend of results (2.58 ERA over three levels) and promise. Curveball is a pitch to watch.

4. Carlos Lagrange, RHP (22) Blazing fastball and dazzling change make this 6-foot-7 righty a steal — the Yanks signed him for $10,000 in 2022.

5. Dax Kilby, SS (19) Might not stick at short, but lefty bat is enticing.

6. Chase Hampton, RHP (24) Missed '25 because of Tommy John but has plenty of promise.

7. Ben Hess, RHP (23) Nifty slider fueled solid pro debut (3.22 ERA) and ascension to Double-A.

8. Bryce Cunningham, RHP (23) Struggled in the Arizona Fall League (10.38 ERA) but recorded a 2.82 mark in 12 High-A starts.

9. Brendan Jones, OF (23) Efficient base thief (51-for-60 over two levels last year) has on-base skills, too.

10. Cade Smith, RHP (23) Arizona Fall League All-Star did not allow a hit to the first 21 batters he faced in that league.

Yankees Roster

Senior Vice President, General Manager: Brian Cashman • **Manager:** Aaron Boone • **Coaches:** Brad Ausmus (bench), Matt Blake (pitching), Preston Claiborne (asst. pitching), Desi Druschel (asst. pitching), Casey Dykes (asst. hitting), Dan Fiorito (first base/infield/baserunning), Mike Harkey (bullpen), Jake Hirst (asst. hitting), Luis Rojas (third base/outfield), James Rowson (hitting), Tanner Swanson (field coordinator and director of catching)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
53	David Bednar	L-R	6-1	250	10/10/94	**NEW YORK AL**	4-0	2.19	22	0	10	24.2	14	9	35
						PITTSBURGH	2-5	2.37	42	0	17	38.0	32	10	51
						Indianapolis (AAA)	0-0	0.00	5	0	0	5.0	1	0	7
59	Jake Bird	R-R	6-3	200	12/4/95	**NEW YORK AL**	0-1	27.00	3	0	0	2.0	4	2	4
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	1-2	6.32	15	0	1	15.2	8	12	23
						COLORADO	4-1	4.73	45	0	0	53.1	56	23	62
	Kervin Castro	R-R	6-0	185	2/7/99	Scranton/WB (AAA)	5-1	1.53	35	0	4	47.0	27	22	52
45	Gerrit Cole	R-R	6-4	220	9/8/90	Injured — Missed Season									
63	Fernando Cruz	R-R	6-2	237	3/28/90	**NEW YORK AL**	3-4	3.56	49	0	2	48.0	33	24	72
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	0-0	27.00	2	0	0	1.1	4	1	1
						Somerset (AA)	0-0	3.86	2	0	0	2.1	2	1	5
73	Yerry De los Santos	R-R	6-2	210	12/12/97	**NEW YORK AL**	0-1	3.28	25	0	0	35.2	37	17	28
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	1-1	1.62	17	0	1	16.2	16	5	18
						Somerset (AA)	0-0	18.00	1	0	0	1.0	3	0	2
75	Camilo Doval	R-R	6-2	205	7/4/97	**NEW YORK AL**	0-1	4.82	22	0	1	18.2	19	11	22
						SAN FRANCISCO	4-2	3.09	47	0	15	46.2	32	24	50
54	Max Fried	L-L	6-4	190	1/18/94	**NEW YORK AL**	19-5	2.86	32	32	0	195.1	164	51	189
81	Luis Gil	R-R	6-2	185	6/3/98	**NEW YORK AL**	4-1	3.32	11	11	0	57.0	47	33	41
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	0-0	7.04	2	2	0	7.2	7	4	11
						Somerset (AA)	0-0	4.05	2	2	0	6.2	4	3	13
	Chase Hampton	R-R	6-2	220	8/7/01	Injured — Missed Season									
47	Brent Headrick	L-L	6-6	235	12/17/97	**NEW YORK AL**	0-0	3.13	17	0	0	23.0	17	7	30
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	2-1	2.63	20	0	0	24.0	25	7	24
41	Tim Hill	R-L	6-4	210	2/10/90	**NEW YORK AL**	4-4	3.09	70	0	0	67.0	58	16	37
55	Carlos Rodón	L-L	6-2	255	12/10/92	**NEW YORK AL**	18-9	3.09	33	33	0	195.1	132	73	203
	Elmer Rodríguez	L-R	6-3	160	8/18/03	Scranton/WB (AAA)	0-1	7.20	1	1	0	5.0	8	0	3
						Somerset (AA)	5-3	2.64	11	11	0	61.1	44	20	74
						Hudson Valley (A+)	6-4	2.26	15	14	0	83.2	52	37	99
88	Jayvien Sandridge	L-L	6-5	220	2/11/99	**NEW YORK AL**	0-0	27.00	1	0	0	0.2	1	2	2
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	3-1	4.55	34	0	3	31.2	29	17	47
						Hudson Valley (A+)	0-1	11.57	2	0	0	2.1	3	0	3
						Tampa (A)	0-0	0.00	2	0	0	2.2	1	2	4
31	Cam Schlittler	R-R	6-6	225	2/5/01	**NEW YORK AL**	4-3	2.96	14	14	0	73.0	58	31	84
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	2-1	3.80	5	5	0	23.2	20	9	35
						Somerset (AA)	4-5	2.38	10	9	0	53.0	47	17	64
36	Clarke Schmidt	R-R	6-1	200	2/20/96	**NEW YORK AL**	4-4	3.32	14	14	0	78.2	56	30	73
						Somerset (AA)	0-0	0.00	2	2	0	7.1	4	1	11
98	Will Warren	R-R	6-2	200	6/16/99	**NEW YORK AL**	9-8	4.44	33	33	0	162.1	158	65	171
	Cade Winquest	R-R	6-2	205	4/30/00	Springfield (AA)	3-1	3.19	8	8	0	42.1	42	12	42
						Peoria (A+)	2-6	4.52	17	15	0	63.2	63	27	68
33	Ryan Yarbrough	R-L	6-5	215	12/31/91	**NEW YORK AL**	3-1	4.36	19	8	1	64.0	58	19	55
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	0-1	4.09	3	3	0	11.0	9	1	12

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
25	J.C. Escarra	L-R	6-2	220	4/24/95	**NEW YORK AL**	.202	40	84	5	17	2	11	11	14	1
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	.300	30	110	16	33	2	20	18	23	2
28	Austin Wells	L-R	6-1	220	7/12/99	**NEW YORK AL**	.219	126	401	51	88	21	71	30	118	5

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
72	José Caballero	R-R	5-10	190	8/30/96	**NEW YORK AL**	.266	40	79	15	21	3	9	14	18	15
						TAMPA BAY	.226	86	235	37	53	2	27	33	80	34
95	Oswaldo Cabrera	S-R	6-0	200	3/1/99	**NEW YORK AL**	.243	34	107	17	26	1	11	11	25	0
13	Jazz Chisholm Jr.	L-R	5-11	184	2/1/98	**NEW YORK AL**	.242	130	462	75	112	31	80	58	148	31
						Somerset (AA)	.333	3	9	2	3	0	0	1	1	1
19	Ryan McMahon	L-R	6-2	219	12/14/94	**NEW YORK AL**	.208	54	159	20	33	4	18	21	62	1
						COLORADO	.217	100	350	42	76	16	35	49	127	2
22	Ben Rice	L-R	6-2	228	2/22/99	**NEW YORK AL**	.255	138	467	74	119	26	65	50	100	3
14	Amed Rosario	R-R	6-2	190	11/20/95	**NEW YORK AL**	.303	16	33	1	10	1	5	0	9	0
						WASHINGTON	.270	47	148	19	40	5	18	7	22	1
89	Braden Shewmake	L-R	6-3	200	11/19/97	Scranton/WB (AAA)	.244	85	279	41	68	4	29	30	52	15
90	Jorbit Vivas	L-R	5-9	171	3/9/01	**NEW YORK AL**	.161	29	56	6	9	1	5	5	13	0
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	.270	100	374	59	101	4	43	64	45	12
11	Anthony Volpe	R-R	5-10	197	4/28/01	**NEW YORK AL**	.212	153	539	65	114	19	72	43	150	18

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
24	Jasson Domínguez	S-R	5-9	218	2/7/03	**NEW YORK AL**	.257	123	381	58	98	10	47	41	115	23
12	Trent Grisham	L-L	5-10	221	11/1/96	**NEW YORK AL**	.235	143	494	87	116	34	74	82	137	3
	Spencer Jones	L-L	6-7	240	5/14/01	Scranton/WB (AAA)	.274	67	263	60	72	19	48	26	109	19
						Somerset (AA)	.274	49	175	42	48	16	32	32	70	10
99	Aaron Judge	R-R	6-7	282	4/26/92	**NEW YORK AL**	.331	152	541	137	179	53	114	124	160	12
27	Giancarlo Stanton	R-R	6-6	245	11/8/89	**NEW YORK AL**	.273	77	249	36	68	24	66	29	96	0
						Somerset (AA)	.273	3	11	0	3	0	4	1	3	0

Tampa Bay RAYS

2026 PREDICTION
5TH
AL EAST
2025 FINISH: 4th (77-85)

Much has changed for the Rays after a second straight disappointing season. They have new owners. They are returning to their hurricane-damaged and since-repaired home at Tropicana Field after spending last season at Steinbrenner Field in Tampa. They have significantly different personnel, and from their moves the first few months of the offseason, they seem to be focusing more on the future than on contending in 2026. A pair of mid-December trades seemed to set that course, as they traded All-Star second baseman Brandon Lowe, top-three starter Shane Baz and two other big-leaguers (outfielder Jake Mangum, reliever Mason Montgomery) for six prospects plus a Day 1 draft pick. They enter 2026 with a mix of key young players, a few complementary veterans and a significant challenge in the rigorous AL East.

ROTATION

The rotation rests on Shane McClanahan returning to action. The two-time All-Star lefty looked last spring like he was fully recovered from August 2023 Tommy John surgery, but in his final tuneup, he left the mound due to an unusual nerve issue in his triceps and ended up missing a second straight full season. The Rays say he will enter spring training fully healthy, but there will be limits on his workload. With McClanahan's status uncertain, the Rays return two starters who had solid and healthy 2025 seasons in righthanders Drew Rasmussen and Ryan Pepiot, and they signed veteran lefty Steven Matz. There was talk of adding another veteran, but if not, they will pick from the group of Joe Boyle, Yoendrys Gómez, Ian Seymour and Jesse Scholtens to fill the remaining spot(s).

BULLPEN

In declining an $11 million option on closer Pete Fairbanks, the Rays are planning to return to a closer-by-committee format. Lefty Garrett Cleavinger, coming off a career-best season, and righthanders Edwin Uceta and Griffin Jax (a 2025 mid-season acquisition from Minnesota) are expected to get most of the save and high-leverage opportunities. Manuel Rodríguez, targeted for a midseason return from elbow surgery, could join them. Manager Kevin Cash has had past success with a group effort and matchup-oriented approach. Other bullpen options include Bryan Baker, Osvaldo Bido, Hunter Bigge, Mason Englert, Kevin Kelly, Seymour, Cole Sulser and Steven Wilson.

MIDDLE INFIELD

The biggest question is who is going to replace Lowe at second. Richie Palacios is the best — only? — in-house option but has missed considerable time the past two seasons with injuries. An external candidate seems more likely. Shortstop could also be in flux. Unless the Rays go out and also get a front-liner, then smooth-fielding, light-hitting Taylor Walls seems likely to be there on Opening Day. But the Rays will closely monitor the progress of top prospect Carson Williams, who fields well, has a cannon arm and has posted three straight 20/20 seasons in the minors but needs to be more consistent at the plate.

JUNIOR CAMINERO

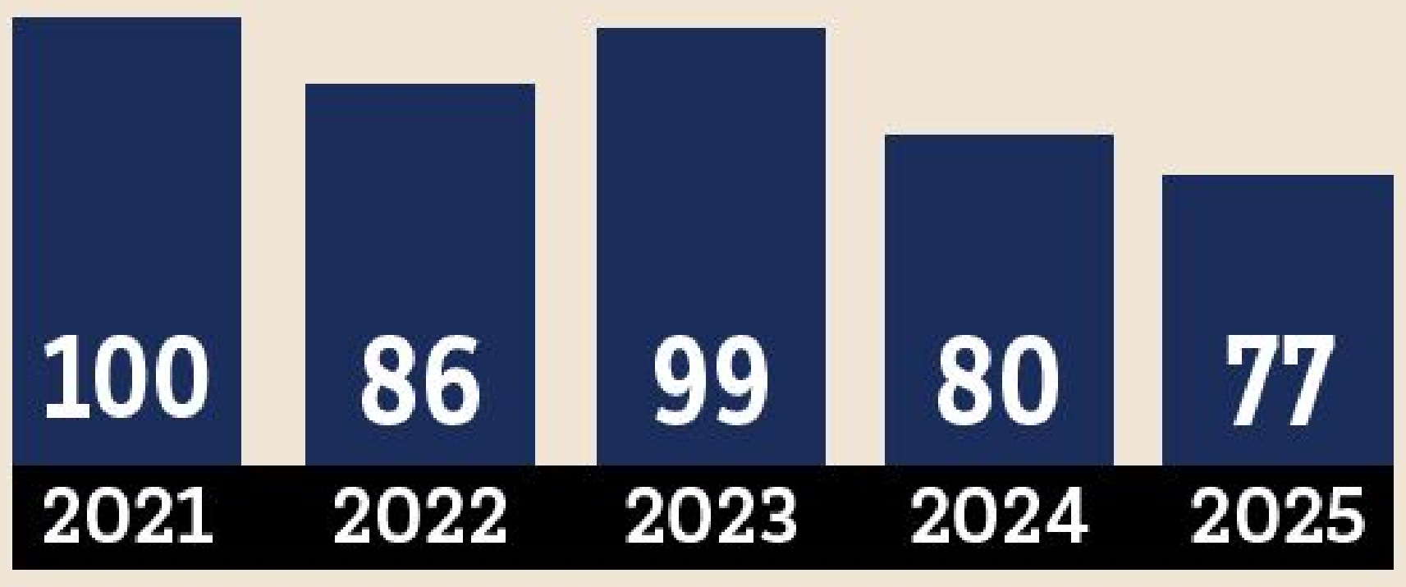
KATIE STRATMAN-IMAGN IMAGES

Tropicana Field

Opened: 1996 • Capacity: 25,025
Left: 315′ Center: 404′ Right: 322′
Tickets: 888-FAN-RAYS
mlb.com/RAYS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Most stolen bases for a team, 2025

1.	**Rays**	**194**
2.	Brewers	164
T3.	Mariners	161
T3.	Cubs	161
5.	Mets	147

CORNERS

The strength of the team rests at third (Junior Caminero) and first (Jonathan Aranda/Yandy Díaz). Given the intensity with which he worked out during the winter, Caminero is driven to improve on his 2025 performance, which included 45 homers, 110 RBIs, an .846 OPS, an All-Star start and a top-10 MVP finish. And some Rays officials insisted the significant improvement he made defensively was more important. Aranda also earned an All-Star selection and was on his way to a breakthrough season when he broke his left wrist on a freak play at first on July 31. He made it back for the final series of the season and over 106 total games still finished with impressive numbers — .316 with 14 homers, 59 RBIs and an .883 OPS. Though Díaz spent most of his time at DH, he handled himself well while making 36 starts at his previous position, enabling the Rays to go with a more right-handed lineup when warranted.

JONATHAN ARANDA

OUTFIELD

The Rays went for a makeover in the outfield after struggling through a season marred by inconsistency and injuries. One benefit from the 2025 mess was the chance to see rookies Mangum and Chandler Simpson. The Rays traded Mangum (for a return that included likely replacement Jacob Melton), but they will bank on Simpson improving enough defensively to take full advantage of his game-changing speed, though a return to Triple-A to start the season is possible. The Rays signed veterans Cedric Mullins and Jake Fraley as free agents, adding experience. As in the past two seasons, Josh Lowe will be a key to their success. After a 2023 breakout, Lowe has missed time with injury the past two seasons and posted poor cumulative numbers. Another issue heading to spring camp is that most of the outfielders on the 40-man roster are lefty hitters.

CATCHING

As part of their busy July trading period, the Rays remade their catching crew on the fly, dealing Danny Jansen and designating Matt Thaiss for assignment in August while acquiring Nick Fortes from the Marlins and Hunter Feduccia from the Dodgers. Fortes is the better defender and more likely to be the primary catcher in 2026. Feduccia came with solid credentials from his time in

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

CF	Cedric Mullins (L)
DH	Yandy Díaz (R)
1B	Jonathan Aranda (L)
3B	Junior Caminero (R)
RF	Josh Lowe (L)
LF	Jake Fraley (L)
C	Nick Fortes (R)
2B	Richie Palacios (L)
SS	Taylor Walls (S)

■ BENCH

C	Hunter Feduccia (L)
INF/OF	Ryan Vilade (R)
OF	Jonny DeLuca (R)
INF	Raynel Delgado (L)

■ ROTATION

RHP	Drew Rasmussen
RHP	Ryan Pepiot
LHP	Steven Matz
RHP	Joe Boyle
RHP	Yoendrys Gómez

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Edwin Uceta (C)
LHP	Garrett Cleavinger
RHP	Griffin Jax
RHP	Bryan Baker
RHP	Steven Wilson
RHP	Hunter Bigge
RHP	Kevin Kelly
LHP	Ian Seymour

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE RAYS "They always find a way to be a pain in the ass. They had big ups and big downs last year, but there was at one point, I remember that it looked like they were down and out, and then they won like 10 of 12 and got right back into it in early September. It's hard to forecast them because they can trade anyone at any moment, but they'll get more from Drew Rasmussen this season, and Ryan Pepiot is always solid. The best thing they learned last year is that Jonathan Aranda and Junior Caminero are superstars at the infield corners. And I want to see more of Chandler Simpson. He's not going to throw anybody out from the outfield, but he's going to catch everything, and his deal on offense is getting on base and moving. And I remember talking to a manager, we were talking about small ball, and he says, 'The bunt has died or gone away so much that guys don't know how to defend it. You see guys panic when the ball gets put in play with a bunt.' So could you imagine the kind of havoc Simpson would cause if he could put bunts down consistently and just run like crazy? I'd love to see that."

NATHAN RAY SEEBECK-IMAGN IMAGES

the minors but didn’t show he was ready for the big leagues. Another addition is possible. Prospect Dominic Keegan is very highly thought of but missed time at Triple-A last season due to injury, so he needs some more work there.

DH/BENCH

In moving Díaz to DH from first base, the Rays accomplished two key goals — they gave Aranda consistent at-bats and kept Díaz in the lineup more. The 34-year-old played a personal-best 150 games and, despite a slow start, delivered a career-high 175 hits, 25 home runs and 83 RBIs while hitting .300. With an abundance of lefty-hitting outfielders and some uncertainty at shortstop and second base, creating some balance on the bench will be important. Jonny DeLuca — who, like Palacios, has missed a lot of time the past two seasons — and Ryan Vilade, an offseason pick-up, figure to play key roles. Walls is a switch-hitter and capable of playing anywhere in the infield. Raynel Delgado, who signed a minor-league contract, could be their utility infielder.

MANAGEMENT

Baseball operations president Erik Neander seemed determined to change the personnel, parting ways by Dec. 31 with nearly half the 49 players who ended 2025 on the 40-man roster or 60-day IL, with the goal of adding as much talent as possible and then figuring out in March how to make the 26-man roster functional. Heading into his 12th season as the longest-tenured manager in the majors with his current team, Cash insisted he had a bad year making moves and was part of the 2025 struggles, though Neander disagreed.

FINAL ANALYSIS

After making the playoffs in five straight years, the Rays have had back-to-back losing seasons. Neander appears determined to rebuild the roster to be good enough to get back to the postseason consistently, but it’s difficult to see that starting this year. Given the Rays’ lack of major additions, this seems like a season that will be more about building — a new stadium to change the revenue shortfall that is an annual issue, and a roster to be deep in talent and competitive when the new facility is ready in 2029, as the team hopes, or shortly thereafter.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

WELCOME HOME Returning to hurricane-damaged and repaired Tropicana Field for 2026 after spending last season at Steinbrenner Field, the Yankees’ spring/minor-league base in Tampa, is a welcome development for the Rays. Especially their pitchers, who gave up a franchise home record 111 home runs in 81 home games in 2025. Their overall 3.94 ERA was their highest since 2017.

BRANCHING OUT In trading starter Shane Baz to the Orioles for four prospects — catcher Caden Bodine, righthander Michael Forret, outfielders Slater de Brun and Austin Overn — and a Day 1 draft pick, the Rays added another branch to the trade tree that started in November 2007 when they dealt Delmon Young to the Twins for Matt Garza and Jason Bartlett. Other key names in that trade history include Chris Archer, Sam Fuld, Tyler Glasnow, Austin Meadows, Isaac Paredes and Ryan Pepiot.

ON THE RUN By swiping three bases in the season finale, the Rays led the majors with 194 steals, tying their team record set in 2009. That total is the most by an AL team since 1996, and it marks the fourth time the Rays led the majors. Expect more of the same in 2026.

CATCH YA NEXT TIME Junior Caminero hit his 44th homer in the Rays’ 149th game but managed only one more the rest of the season (missing two games with back tightness), coming up one shy of Carlos Pena’s franchise record of 46 set in 2007. The 22-year-old wasn’t that concerned. “It’s God’s will,” Caminero said. “If it doesn’t happen this year, it’s going to happen eventually.”

Schedule

🟦 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 ▨ STL	27	28 ▨ STL
29 ▨ STL	30 ▨ MIL	31 ▨ MIL	1 ▨ MIL	2	3 ▨ MIN	4 ▨ MIN
5 ▨ MIN	6 🟦 CHC	7 🟦 CHC	8 🟦 CHC	9	10 🟦 NYY	11 🟦 NYY
12 🟦 NYY	13	14 ▨ CWS	15 ▨ CWS	16 ▨ CWS	17 ▨ PIT	18 ▨ PIT
19 ▨ PIT	20 🟦 CIN	21 🟦 CIN	22 🟦 CIN	23	24 🟦 MIN	25 🟦 MIN
26 🟦 MIN	27 ▨ CLE	28 ▨ CLE	29 ▨ CLE	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 🟦 SF	2 🟦 SF
3 🟦 SF	4 🟦 TOR	5 🟦 TOR	6 🟦 TOR	7 ▨ BOS	8 ▨ BOS	9 ▨ BOS
10 ▨ BOS	11 ▨ TOR	12 ▨ TOR	13 ▨ TOR	14	15 🟦 MIA	16 🟦 MIA
17 🟦 MIA	18 🟦 BAL	19 🟦 BAL	20 🟦 BAL	21	22 ▨ NYY	23 ▨ NYY
24 ▨ NYY	25 ▨ BAL	26 ▨ BAL	27 ▨ BAL	28	29 🟦 LAA	30 🟦 LAA
31 🟦 LAA						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 🟦 DET	2 🟦 DET	3 🟦 DET	4	5 ▨ MIA	6 ▨ MIA
7 ▨ MIA	8 🟦 BOS	9 🟦 BOS	10 🟦 BOS	11	12 ▨ LAA	13 ▨ LAA
14 ▨ LAA	15 ▨ LAD	16 ▨ LAD	17 ▨ LAD	18	19 🟦 WAS	20 🟦 WAS
21 🟦 WAS	22 🟦 KC	23 🟦 KC	24 🟦 KC	25 🟦 KC	26 🟦 ARI	27 🟦 ARI
28 🟦 ARI	29	30 ▨ KC				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 ▨ KC	2 ▨ KC	3 ▨ HOU	4 ▨ HOU
5 ▨ HOU	6 🟦 NYY	7 🟦 NYY	8 🟦 NYY	9 🟦 NYY	10 🟦 SEA	11 🟦 SEA
12 🟦 SEA	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 ▨ BOS	18 ▨ BOS
19 ▨ BOS	20 ▨ TOR	21 ▨ TOR	22 ▨ TOR	23 ▨ TOR	24 🟦 CLE	25 🟦 CLE
26 🟦 CLE	27	28 🟦 TEX	29 🟦 TEX	30 🟦 TEX	31 🟦 CWS	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 🟦 CWS
2 🟦 CWS	3 ▨ COL	4 ▨ COL	5 ▨ COL	6	7 ▨ SEA	8 ▨ SEA
9 ▨ SEA	10 ▨ A’s	11 ▨ A’s	12 ▨ A’s	13	14 🟦 BAL	15 🟦 BAL
16 🟦 BAL	17 🟦 BAL	18 🟦 TOR	19 🟦 TOR	20 🟦 TOR	21 ▨ BAL	22 ▨ BAL
23 ▨ BAL	24 ▨ DET	25 ▨ DET	26 ▨ DET	27	28 🟦 SD	29 🟦 SD
30 🟦 SD	31 🟦 NYM					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 🟦 NYM	2 🟦 NYM	3 ▨ TEX	4 ▨ TEX	5 ▨ TEX
6 ▨ TEX	7	8 ▨ ATL	9 ▨ ATL	10 ▨ ATL	11 🟦 HOU	12 🟦 HOU
13 🟦 HOU	14	15 🟦 A’s	16 🟦 A’s	17 🟦 A’s	18 🟦 BOS	19 🟦 BOS
20 🟦 BOS	21	22 ▨ NYY	23 ▨ NYY	24 ▨ NYY	25 ▨ PHI	26 ▨ PHI
27 ▨ PHI	28	29	30			

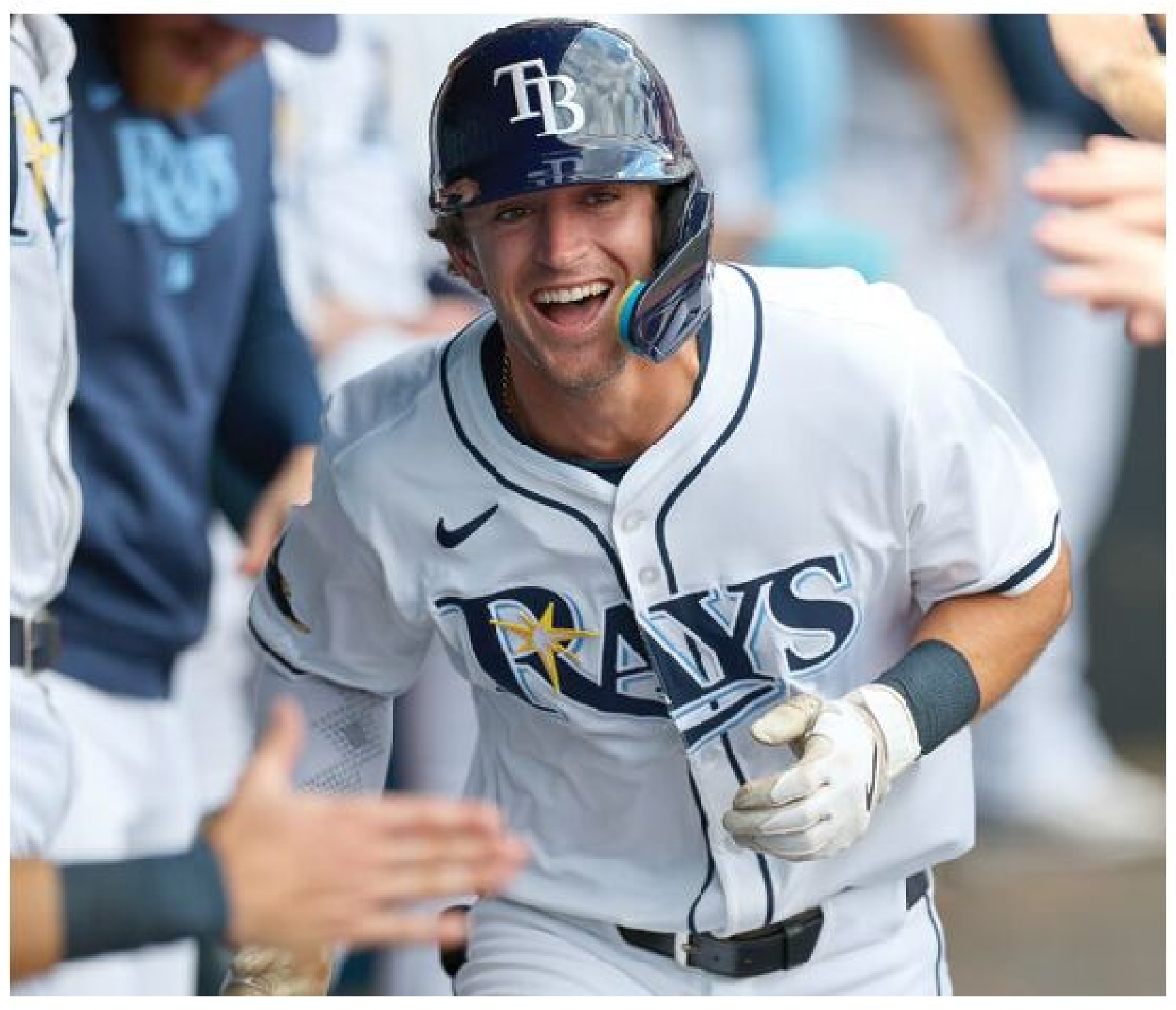
STATISTICIAN

24 Players traded, waived, non-tendered or otherwise dropped by the Rays from the 49 who finished last season on the 40-man roster and 60-day injured list.

◆

+31 Positive run differential, the second-best ever over a 162-game season by a team that finished eight or more games under .500.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS



NATHAN RAY SEEBECK-IMAGN IMAGES

- **1. Carson Williams, SS (22)** Has the arm, glove and power for majors but needs to cut down on strikeouts.

2. Theo Gillen, OF (20) 2024 first-round pick has talent and athleticism.

3. Brody Hopkins, RHP (24) Top starter prospect had solid Double-A season; likely won't be rushed.

4. Jacob Melton, OF (25) Top Astros prospect was acquired in a trade; likely to play in the majors in '26.

5. Michael Forret, RHP (21) Former Orioles prospect could move quickly to the Rays rotation.

6. Anderson Brito, RHP (21) Another Astros prospect acquired via trade; has a future in the rotation.

7. Jadher Areinamo, INF (22) Added to the roster due to Rule 5 selection fear; has the bat and glove to reach the majors.

8. Xavier Issac, 1B/DH (22) With life-saving brain surgery behind him, a bright future is again ahead.

9. Tre' Morgan, 1B/OF (23) Disappointing '25 season shouldn't be a major concern given his talent and approach.

10. Slater de Brun, OF (18) Corbin Carroll-type player got $4M draft bonus from O's, now traded to Rays.

Rays Roster

President, Baseball Operations: Erik Neander • **Manager:** Kevin Cash • **Coaches:** Corey Dickerson (first base), Tomas Francisco (field coordinator), Kris Goodman (process and development), Rick Knapp (asst. pitching and rehab), Rodney Linares (bench), Jorge Moncada (bullpen), Chad Mottola (hitting), Kyle Snyder (pitching), Brady Williams (third base)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
47	Bryan Baker	R-R	6-6	235	12/2/94	**TAMPA BAY**	1-2	4.75	31	0	1	30.1	26	8	34
						BALTIMORE	3-2	3.52	42	0	2	38.1	33	9	49
	Osvaldo Bido	R-R	6-3	175	10/18/95	**ATHLETICS**	2-5	5.87	26	10	1	79.2	93	35	68
						Las Vegas (AAA)	2-0	5.71	4	3	0	17.1	24	9	18
43	Hunter Bigge	R-R	6-0	215	6/12/98	**TAMPA BAY**	0-0	2.40	13	0	0	15.0	11	5	12
36	Joe Boyle	R-R	6-8	250	8/14/99	**TAMPA BAY**	1-4	4.67	13	9	0	52.0	43	28	58
						Durham (AAA)	8-4	1.88	18	17	0	86.0	46	41	114
60	Garrett Cleavinger	R-L	6-1	225	4/23/94	**TAMPA BAY**	2-6	2.35	67	0	2	61.1	40	18	82
	Alex Cook	R-R	6-2	220	3/29/01	Montgomery (AA)	1-1	2.30	13	0	4	15.2	10	3	18
						FCL Rays (R)	1-0	3.86	4	0	0	4.2	4	5	10
59	Mason Englert	S-R	6-4	205	11/1/99	**TAMPA BAY**	0-1	3.83	29	0	0	44.2	43	11	44
						Durham (AAA)	1-0	1.23	14	1	2	22.0	20	5	26
94	Yoendrys Gómez	R-R	6-3	212	10/15/99	**LOS ANGELES NL**	0-0	14.54	3	0	1	4.1	10	2	6
						NEW YORK AL	1-1	2.70	6	0	0	10.0	5	9	5
						CHICAGO AL	2-2	4.84	12	9	0	48.1	45	16	47
						Charlotte (AAA)	4-3	2.12	14	11	0	46.2	38	21	64
22	Griffin Jax	R-R	6-2	195	11/22/94	**TAMPA BAY**	0-2	3.60	23	2	0	20.0	18	8	27
						MINNESOTA	1-5	4.50	50	0	0	46.0	46	13	72
49	Kevin Kelly	R-R	6-2	195	11/28/97	**TAMPA BAY**	2-5	5.90	41	0	0	39.2	45	9	35
						Durham (AAA)	1-1	1.64	11	0	0	11.0	12	1	15
						FCL Rays (R)	0-0	9.00	1	1	0	1.0	1	0	3
	Steven Matz	R-L	6-2	205	5/29/91	**ST. LOUIS**	5-2	3.44	32	2	1	55.0	56	9	47
						BOSTON	0-0	2.08	21	0	1	21.2	17	2	12
18	Shane McClanahan	L-L	6-3	210	4/28/97	Durham (AAA)	0-0	15.43	2	2	0	2.1	7	1	4
						FCL Rays (R)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.0	0	1	1
44	Ryan Pepiot	R-R	6-3	210	8/21/97	**TAMPA BAY**	11-12	3.86	31	31	0	167.2	134	61	167
57	Drew Rasmussen	R-R	6-1	240	7/27/95	**TAMPA BAY**	10-5	2.76	31	31	0	150.0	116	37	127
68	Joe Rock	L-L	6-6	220	7/29/00	**TAMPA BAY**	0-0	2.35	3	0	0	7.2	7	2	11
						Durham (AAA)	3-7	5.21	32	15	0	96.2	102	39	88
39	Manuel Rodríguez	R-R	5-11	205	8/6/96	**TAMPA BAY**	1-2	2.08	31	0	0	30.1	26	6	25
						Durham (AAA)	0-0	6.75	2	0	0	1.1	2	0	1
65	Jesse Scholtens	R-R	6-4	240	4/6/94	**TAMPA BAY**	0-1	5.40	2	0	0	8.1	9	3	12
						Durham (AAA)	1-1	4.13	7	7	0	32.2	29	9	43
						Charlotte (AAA)	1-1	5.28	8	6	0	29.0	26	9	25
						Winston-Salem (A+)	0-0	5.14	2	2	0	7.0	9	3	5
61	Ian Seymour	L-L	6-0	215	12/13/98	**TAMPA BAY**	4-3	3.63	19	5	0	57.0	48	19	64
						Durham (AAA)	9-3	2.62	16	15	0	86.0	78	20	104
71	Cole Sulser	R-R	6-0	200	3/12/90	**TAMPA BAY**	2-1	1.99	18	0	0	22.2	20	7	22
						Durham (AAA)	3-0	1.30	30	0	2	34.2	23	5	34
63	Edwin Uceta	R-R	6-0	210	1/9/98	**TAMPA BAY**	10-3	3.79	70	0	1	76.0	62	27	103
24	Steven Wilson	R-R	6-4	220	8/24/94	**CHICAGO AL**	2-2	3.42	59	0	2	55.1	50	22	51
						Charlotte (AAA)	0-0	1.69	5	0	1	5.1	5	1	10

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
30	Hunter Feduccia	L-R	6-1	215	6/5/97	**TAMPA BAY**	.151	36	86	5	13	0	8	14	28	1
						LOS ANGELES NL	.000	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	.290	79	276	55	80	9	52	52	71	2
40	Nick Fortes	R-R	5-11	198	11/11/96	**TAMPA BAY**	.213	38	89	8	19	3	11	7	25	1
						MIAMI	.240	59	129	11	31	2	10	7	22	0
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.000	2	6	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
	Dominic Keegan	R-R	6-0	210	8/1/00	Durham (AAA)	.241	69	266	34	64	10	36	24	91	0
						FCL Rays (R)	.292	8	24	7	7	2	4	8	6	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
62	Jonathan Aranda	L-R	6-0	215	5/23/98	**TAMPA BAY**	.316	106	370	56	117	14	59	41	107	0
	Jadher Areinamo	R-R	5-8	160	11/28/03	Montgomery (AA)	.255	37	141	18	36	4	19	12	19	6
						Wisconsin (A+)	.297	94	367	51	109	11	51	34	48	15
13	Junior Caminero	R-R	6-1	220	7/5/03	**TAMPA BAY**	.264	154	602	93	159	45	110	41	125	7
2	Yandy Díaz	R-R	6-1	235	8/8/91	**TAMPA BAY**	.300	150	583	79	175	25	83	57	92	3
1	Richie Palacios	L-R	5-9	185	5/16/97	**TAMPA BAY**	.333	17	42	10	14	1	3	5	9	4
						Durham (AAA)	.158	20	76	7	12	2	3	6	20	3
						Montgomery (AA)	.286	2	7	1	2	0	1	1	3	0
						FCL Rays (R)	.143	2	7	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
6	Taylor Walls	S-R	5-8	185	7/10/96	**TAMPA BAY**	.220	101	282	36	62	4	38	26	70	14
7	Carson Williams	R-R	6-2	180	6/25/03	**TAMPA BAY**	.172	32	99	11	17	5	12	6	44	2
						Durham (AAA)	.213	111	389	72	83	23	55	56	154	22

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
21	Jonny DeLuca	R-R	5-11	195	7/10/98	**TAMPA BAY**	.333	20	57	5	19	0	4	2	13	6
						Durham (AAA)	.120	14	50	8	6	0	1	5	11	0
						FCL Rays (R)	.182	4	11	1	2	0	1	3	2	0
17	Jake Fraley	L-L	5-11	206	5/25/95	**ATLANTA**	.304	9	23	2	7	0	0	1	8	0
						CINCINNATI	.232	67	168	29	39	6	23	24	41	4
						Louisville (AAA)	.185	7	27	3	5	1	2	2	4	1
15	Josh Lowe	L-R	6-4	220	2/2/98	**TAMPA BAY**	.220	108	396	56	87	11	40	33	109	18
						Durham (AAA)	.235	5	17	3	4	1	2	4	6	1
						FCL Rays (R)	.333	1	3	2	1	1	2	2	1	0
	Justyn-Henry Malloy	R-R	6-1	212	2/19/00	**DETROIT**	.221	52	104	15	23	1	17	20	32	0
						Toledo (AAA)	.322	72	261	49	84	9	53	57	67	6
	Jacob Melton	L-L	6-3	208	9/7/00	**HOUSTON**	.157	32	70	7	11	0	7	6	29	7
						Sugar Land (AAA)	.286	35	126	26	36	6	17	22	30	12
31	Cedric Mullins	L-L	5-8	175	10/1/94	**BALTIMORE**	.229	91	314	42	72	15	49	34	85	14
						NEW YORK NL	.182	42	121	16	22	2	10	16	35	8
14	Chandler Simpson	L-R	5-11	170	11/18/00	**TAMPA BAY**	.295	109	414	53	122	0	26	20	43	44
						Durham (AAA)	.333	33	144	24	48	0	14	9	15	19
	Ryan Vilade	R-R	6-2	226	2/18/99	**ST. LOUIS**	.077	7	13	1	1	0	0	2	5	0
						Memphis (AAA)	.280	48	164	33	46	5	31	24	38	5
						CINCINNATI	.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
						Louisville (AAA)	.296	65	233	42	69	12	35	26	51	6

Toronto BLUE JAYS

2026 PREDICTION
1ST
AL EAST
2025 FINISH: 1ST (94-68)

After coming so agonizingly close to their first World Series title since 1993, the Toronto Blue Jays head into the new season on a mission to finish the job in 2026.

The return of Shane Bieber and the additions of fellow starters Dylan Cease and Cody Ponce along with reliever Tyler Rogers bolster the pitching staff for a group that will be largely run it back this season.

Conjuring the magic that fueled last season's success won't be easy, especially given the someone-different-every-night approach that worked so well. But in Vladimir Guerrero Jr., George Springer, Alejandro Kirk, Daulton Varsho, Japanese newcomer Kazuma Okamoto and so many others, they have a deep, flexible lineup for manager John Schneider, along with a strong pitching staff to underpin their efforts.

ROTATION

The club's foundation is a deep rotation that projects to have six viable starters along with some depth behind that group. Kevin Gausman returns to front a staff boosted by trade deadline addition Bieber's decision to exercise his $16 million player option and the free-agent signings of Cease ($210 million, seven years) and Ponce ($30 million, three years). Add in José Berríos, who finished last year on the injured list with right elbow inflammation but is fully recovered, and Trey Yesavage, the sensational rookie who zoomed through five levels to dominate in the postseason, and there will be some competition during spring training. Swingmen Eric Lauer and Bowden Francis provide further depth, while prospect Ricky Tiedemann bears watching, although he could end up as a relief option. Rotation depth can erode quickly, but the Blue Jays appear to be positioned as well as a team can be on this front.

BULLPEN

Jeff Hoffman projects to close again after an odd first season in the role, ranking fourth in the majors with 33 saves but also allowing 2.0 homers per nine innings. Trouble with the longball showed up in the ninth inning of World Series Game 7 when Miguel Rojas hit a game-tying solo shot, and moving past that will be his main challenge. Setting up for him will be durable and effective submariner Rogers, back-from-elbow-surgery Yimi García and Louis Varland, the triple-digit velo righty acquired at the deadline who pitched in 15 of the Blue Jays' 18 playoff games. There's plenty of depth behind them as well, between righties Braydon Fisher and Tommy Nance, lefties Brendon Little and Mason Fluharty and the starters who don't make the rotation.

MIDDLE INFIELD

Andrés Giménez impressed at shortstop after sliding over when Bo Bichette suffered a left knee sprain in September and was preparing to play either there or at second base, depending on what happened with Bichette's free agency. No matter which position he ends up manning, he'll provide elite defense and baserunning along with strong contact skills. Ernie Clement's status is similarly

VLADIMIR GUERRERO JR.

Rogers Centre

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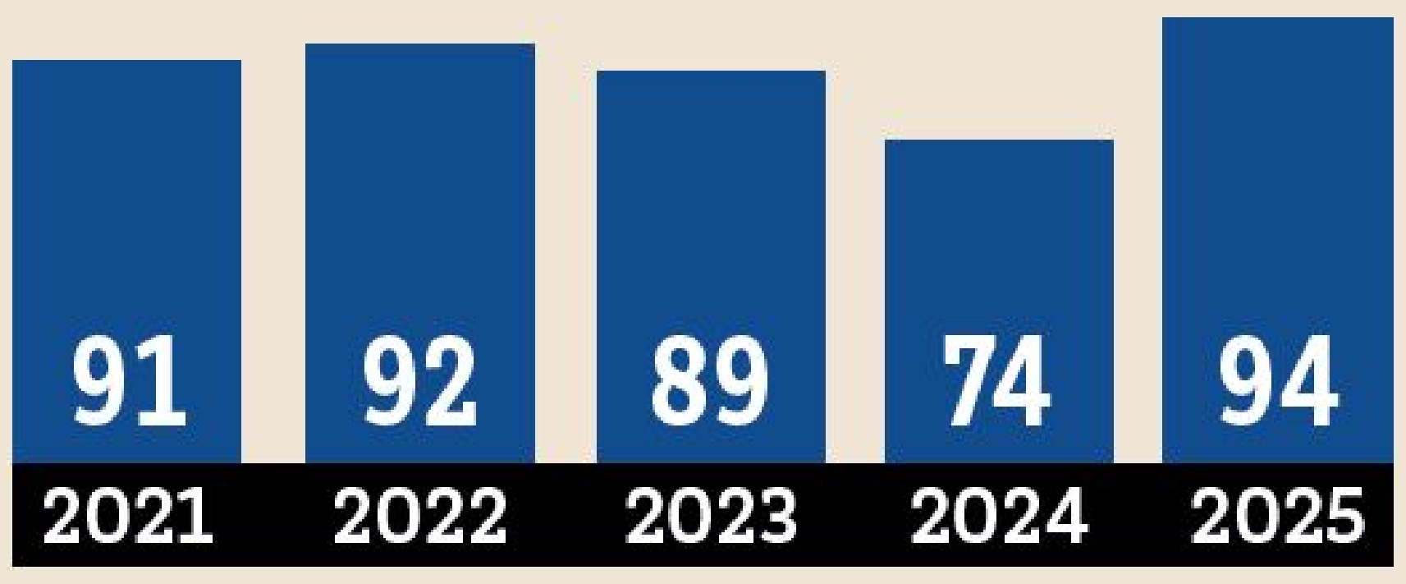
◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Largest increase in average exit velocity among AL hitters from 2024-25, minimum 200 plate appearances

1. Daulton Varsho, Blue Jays	**+3.8 mph**
2. Miguel Vargas, White Sox	+3.5 mph
3. Addison Barger, Blue Jays	**+3.4 mph**
4. Brayan Rocchio, Guardians	+3.4 mph
5. Royce Lewis, Twins	+2.8 mph

KIYOSHI MIO-IMAGN IMAGES

dependent on Bichette — bound for second (primarily) if he signs elsewhere, or a mix of short and third if he returns. Clement's bat superseded his defensive chops during the postseason, when he set a record with 30 hits in a single playoffs, showing how he's grown into an important part of the offense as well. Bench option Leo Jiménez heads into camp out of options.

CORNERS

Guerrero's $500 million, 14-year extension signed last April begins this year, giving the Blue Jays a cornerstone at first base until the end of the next decade. He had a good but not great regular season in 2025 but went into legend mode during the postseason, with eight home runs and a 1.289 OPS through the 18 games. He'll again be at the heart of the order and key to the club's fate. Also vital in that regard is Kazuma Okamoto, the six-time NPB All-Star with good power and contact skills who signed a $60-million, four-year deal. He is expected to get regular playing time at a few different spots, including a healthy dose of third base. Addison Barger will see some time at both third and right field, and it was his May arrival that helped push the Blue Jays' surge with his 21 homers and 74 RBIs from the left side.

GEORGE SPRINGER

NICK TURCHIARO-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

Varsho returned from right shoulder surgery to hit 20 home runs in 71 games, leaving the Blue Jays hopeful about what a full season might look like. While there's upside with him, there's even more with Anthony Santander, the club's big free-agent addition last year who played in just 54 games due to left shoulder inflammation. He hit six home runs with a .565 OPS during that time, so even an average season by his standards will give the offense a significant bump. Nathan Lukes, who drove in 65 runs during his first full season, and Myles Straw, who provided nearly three wins of value, can move around and fill gaps as needed. Barger and even Okamoto also are in the mix.

CATCHING

Kirk was an All-Star for the second time last year, rebounding from two down seasons at the plate to hit 15 homers with 76 RBIs while providing Gold-Glove-caliber defense. He also logged a career-high 965.1 innings behind the plate, rewarding the club's decision to hand him a $58-million, five-year extension last spring. Whether there are some after-effects from the heavy work-

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

DH	George Springer (R)
RF	Addison Barger (L)
1B	Vladimir Guerrero Jr. (R)
LF	Anthony Santander (S)
C	Alejandro Kirk (R)
CF	Daulton Varsho (L)
3B	Kazuma Okamoto (R)
2B	Ernie Clement (R)
SS	Andres Giménez (L)

■ BENCH

C	Tyler Heineman (S)
CF	Myles Straw (R)
UTIL	Davis Schneider (R)
OF	Nathan Lukes (L)

■ ROTATION

RHP	Kevin Gausman
RHP	Dylan Cease
RHP	Shane Bieber
RHP	Trey Yesavage
RHP	Cody Ponce
RHP	José Berríos

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Jeff Hoffman (C)
RHP	Tyler Rogers
RHP	Yimi García
RHP	Louis Varland
LHP	Brendon Little
RHP	Braydon Fisher
LHP	Eric Lauer

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE BLUE JAYS "They put a fear in you because in a day and age when strikeouts are acceptable, all these dudes can put the ball in play and do it with some pop. Addison Barger, Ernie Clement, Kazuma Okamoto, Nathan Lukes, Davis Schneider, you go right down the line. Alejandro Kirk is a hell of a hitter with a great arm behind the plate, George Springer looked revived last year, and of course Vladdy Guerrero Jr. is all-world; we saw it in the postseason, when he was just unreal. They paid a lot for Dylan Cease, but he's been able to stay healthy, he's got great stuff and he gives them depth if the other guys are a little worn out after the World Series run. Shane Bieber accepting the qualifying offer was huge, and so was signing Tyler Rogers. He's durable and funky and tough to get in the air. Jeff Hoffman took the World Series hard, but he's overcome a lot to get where he is, and I think he'll be fine."

load will need to be monitored. Tyler Heineman enjoyed his most productive season in the majors and heads into spring training as the incumbent backup. Brandon Valenzuela, acquired at the deadline, is a good defender with some pop and provides a depth option the Blue Jays have lacked in recent seasons.

DH/BENCH

Springer turned 36 last September and produced a peak-year-level season with 32 home runs and 84 RBIs in 140 games, 82 of them at DH. His OPS as the DH was 1.022, compared to .849 when in the outfield, which may be instructive on how to optimize his usage this season after three years of declining production preceded his spectacular 2025. Still, Santander is sure to benefit from more DH time, as well, and Okamoto should see some reps here, too, leaving the Blue Jays to do some juggling. Straw often came in for defense late in games and is likely to be used similarly this year, while Davis Schneider carved out an important role as a right-handed impact option off the bench.

MANAGEMENT

Schneider found his stride as manager in 2025 and ended up second in American League Manager of the Year voting. After the trainwreck of 2024, he helped improve lines of communication between all layers of the franchise, more effectively mixed and matched his roster and defined clear expectations for every player. He urged players to be themselves, do what they are good at and find small ways to contribute. After a couple of years of small steps, all those elements culminated in an AL East title and nearly a World Series title.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Blue Jays head into the new season with strengths across the board, no obvious flaws and depth on the 40-man roster and in the minor leagues. That's a good base from which to launch their attempt at winning the championship that just eluded them, but it won't be easy. They only won the AL East by tiebreaker after finishing with the same 94-68 record as the Yankees, and all their divisional rivals should be better in 2026. But time and again, they found a way last year, and they will try to do that once again, knowing well what they are capable of.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

CONTINUITY The trainwreck in 2024 could very easily have led to changes in the Blue Jays' front office, but ownership instead held course. After the World Series run, president and CEO Mark Shapiro was rewarded with a five-year extension, and now he and general manager Ross Atkins, whose contract runs through 2026, will begin their 11th season leading the franchise, a remarkable stretch of continuity.

DETAILS MATTER The Blue Jays spent all of the 2025 season focused on trying to exploit the game's smallest details, particularly on defense and on the basepaths. Still, they were left to lament the size of Isiah Kiner-Falefa's lead from third base in the ninth inning of World Series Game 7. Another step or two, and he's probably safe on Daulton Varsho's fielder's choice, triggering a wild celebration. Instead, the Jays have food for thought in 2026 on how far to push on similar plays, while factoring in the possibility of line-drive double plays and back-pick throws from catchers.

OFFENSIVE REVIVAL What will hitting coach David Popkins do for an encore in his second year with the Blue Jays? His first season couldn't have gone much better, as he took largely the same group of hitters and helped them go from the 23rd-most productive offense in the majors at 671 runs in 2024 to the fourth-most productive with 798 runs in 2025. Under his watch, George Springer, Bo Bichette, Alejandro Kirk, Daulton Varsho and Myles Straw all rebounded in a big way, while Ernie Clement, Addison Barger and Nathan Lukes found their stride. What they look like in Year 2 under Popkins' tutelage will be closely watched.

Schedule

🟥 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26	27 🟥 A's	28 🟥 A's
29 🟥 A's	30 🟥 COL	31 🟥 COL	1 🟥 COL	2 ▨ CWS	3	4 ▨ CWS
5 ▨ CWS	6 🟥 LAD	7 🟥 LAD	8 🟥 LAD	9	10 🟥 MIN	11 🟥 MIN
12 🟥 MIN	13	14 ▨ MIL	15 ▨ MIL	16 ▨ MIL	17 ▨ ARI	18 ▨ ARI
19 ▨ ARI	20 ▨ LAA	21 ▨ LAA	22 ▨ LAA	23	24 🟥 CLE	25 🟥 CLE
26 🟥 CLE	27 🟥 BOS	28 🟥 BOS	29 🟥 BOS	30 ▨ MIN		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ▨ MIN	2 ▨ MIN
3 ▨ MIN	4 ▨ TB	5 ▨ TB	6 ▨ TB	7	8 🟥 LAA	9 🟥 LAA
10 🟥 LAA	11 🟥 TB	12 🟥 TB	13 🟥 TB	14	15 ▨ DET	16 ▨ DET
17 ▨ DET	18 ▨ NYY	19 ▨ NYY	20 ▨ NYY	21 ▨ NYY	22 🟥 PIT	23 🟥 PIT
24 🟥 PIT	25 🟥 MIA	26 🟥 MIA	27 🟥 MIA	28 ▨ BAL	29 ▨ BAL	30 ▨ BAL
31 ▨ BAL						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2 ▨ ATL	3 ▨ ATL	4 ▨ ATL	5 🟥 BAL	6 🟥 BAL
7 🟥 BAL	8 🟥 PHI	9 🟥 PHI	10 🟥 PHI	11	12 🟥 NYY	13 🟥 NYY
14 🟥 NYY	15	16 ▨ BOS	17 ▨ BOS	18 ▨ BOS	19 ▨ CHC	20 ▨ CHC
21 ▨ CHC	22 🟥 HOU	23 🟥 HOU	24 🟥 HOU	25 🟥 TEX	26 🟥 TEX	27 🟥 TEX
28 🟥 TEX	29 🟥 NYM	30 🟥 NYM				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 🟥 NYM	2	3 ▨ SEA	4 ▨ SEA
5 ▨ SEA	6 ▨ SF	7 ▨ SF	8 ▨ SF	9	10 ▨ SD	11 ▨ SD
12 ▨ SD	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 🟥 CWS	18 🟥 CWS
19 🟥 CWS	20 🟥 TB	21 🟥 TB	22 🟥 TB	23 🟥 TB	24 ▨ BOS	25 ▨ BOS
26 ▨ BOS	27 ▨ WAS	28 ▨ WAS	29 ▨ WAS	30	31 🟥 STL	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 🟥 STL
2 🟥 STL	3 ▨ HOU	4 ▨ HOU	5 ▨ HOU	6	7 ▨ PHI	8 ▨ PHI
9 ▨ PHI	10 🟥 BOS	11 🟥 BOS	12 🟥 BOS	13 🟥 BOS	14 🟥 NYY	15 🟥 NYY
16 🟥 NYY	17	18 ▨ TB	19 ▨ TB	20 ▨ TB	21 ▨ NYY	22 ▨ NYY
23 ▨ NYY	24	25 🟥 KC	26 🟥 KC	27 🟥 KC	28 🟥 SEA	29 🟥 SEA
30 🟥 SEA	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 ▨ CLE	2 ▨ CLE	3 ▨ CLE	4 ▨ KC	5 ▨ KC
6 ▨ KC	7 ▨ A's	8 ▨ A's	9 ▨ A's	10	11 🟥 BAL	12 🟥 BAL
13 🟥 BAL	14 🟥 DET	15 🟥 DET	16 🟥 DET	17	18 ▨ TEX	19 ▨ TEX
20 ▨ TEX	21 ▨ BAL	22 ▨ BAL	23 ▨ BAL	24	25 🟥 CIN	26 🟥 CIN
27 🟥 CIN	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

20 More wins for the Blue Jays in 2025 than in 2024, as they went from worst to first in the AL East.

◆

49 Comeback wins during the regular season by the Blue Jays, most in the majors, one more than the Dodgers.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

KIRBY LEE-IMAGN IMAGES

1. Trey Yesavage, RHP (22) Electric righty returns with rookie status intact after an epic post-season performance.

2. Arjun Nimmala, SS (20) Immense talent seeking consistency after strong start and rough finish at High-A.

3. JoJo Parker, SS (19) Eighth overall pick with big pop is set for his pro debut.

4. Johnny King, LHP (19) Lefty with plus fastball and curveball looking to build on 2025 breakout.

5. Gage Stanifer, RHP (22) Zipped through three levels while posting big strikeout numbers.

6. Ricky Tiedemann, LHP (23) Big-velo lefty expected to be healthy after Tommy John surgery.

7. Juan Sanchez, 3B/SS (18) Big bat impressed during dominant debut in DSL.

8. RJ Schreck, OF (25) High contact and strong discipline give him a chance to reach the majors in 2026.

9. Jake Bloss, RHP (24) Should be ready for a return to the mound after Tommy John surgery.

10. Jake Cook, OF (22) Intriguing athlete with contact/discipline/speed blend set for pro debut.

Blue Jays Roster

Executive Vice President, Baseball Operations & General Manager: Ross Atkins • **Manager:** John Schneider
Associate Manager: DeMarlo Hale • **Coaches:** Cody Atkinson (asst. hitting), Drew Butera, Mark Budzinski (first base), Eric Duncan (field coordinator), Carlos Febles (third base), Sam Greene (asst. pitching), Lou Iannotti (asst. hitting), Graham Johnson (bullpen), John Lannan (mental performance), Hunter Mense (asst. hitting), David Popkins (hitting), Pete Walker (pitching)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
66	Angel Bastardo	R-R	6-1	175	6/18/02	Injured — Missed Season									
17	José Berríos	R-R	6-0	205	5/27/94	TORONTO	9-5	4.17	31	30	0	166.0	160	56	138
57	Shane Bieber	R-R	6-3	200	5/31/95	TORONTO	4-2	3.57	7	7	0	40.1	34	7	37
						Buffalo (AAA)	1-1	2.04	3	3	0	17.2	15	2	16
						Akron (AA)	0-0	2.25	1	1	0	4.0	3	0	7
						Lake County (A+)	0-0	3.00	1	1	0	3.0	2	0	4
						ACL Guardians (R)	0-0	0.00	2	2	0	4.1	2	1	10
28	Jake Bloss	R-R	6-3	223	6/23/01	Buffalo (AAA)	0-5	6.46	6	6	0	23.2	33	13	24
84	Dylan Cease	R-R	6-2	200	12/28/95	SAN DIEGO	8-12	4.55	32	32	0	168.0	152	71	215
60	Lazaro Estrada	R-R	5-10	180	4/24/99	TORONTO	0-0	8.59	2	0	0	7.1	10	1	10
						Buffalo (AAA)	4-7	5.73	26	20	0	97.1	109	32	99
63	Braydon Fisher	R-R	6-4	180	7/26/00	TORONTO	7-0	2.70	52	1	0	50.0	32	19	62
						Buffalo (AAA)	1-0	1.62	14	0	2	16.2	12	5	22
68	Mason Fluharty	R-L	6-2	215	8/13/01	TORONTO	5-2	4.44	55	0	1	52.2	36	24	56
						Buffalo (AAA)	0-0	3.27	11	0	0	11.0	11	7	15
44	Bowden Francis	R-R	6-5	220	4/22/96	TORONTO	2-8	6.05	14	14	0	64.0	71	27	54
93	Yimi García	R-R	6-1	230	8/18/90	TORONTO	1-2	3.86	22	0	3	21.0	13	12	25
						Buffalo (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	0.2	1	1	1
						Dunedin (A)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.0	1	0	3
						FCL Blue Jays (R)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.0	1	0	3
34	Kevin Gausman	L-R	6-2	205	1/6/91	TORONTO	10-11	3.59	32	32	0	193.0	155	50	189
23	Jeff Hoffman	R-R	6-5	235	1/8/93	TORONTO	9-7	4.37	71	0	33	68.0	54	27	84
56	Eric Lauer	R-L	6-3	209	6/3/95	TORONTO	9-2	3.18	28	15	0	104.2	90	26	102
						Buffalo (AAA)	1-3	4.50	5	5	0	24.0	24	6	21
	Chase Lee	R-R	6-0	170	8/13/98	DETROIT	4-1	4.10	32	0	0	37.1	32	9	36
						Toledo (AAA)	1-1	6.47	23	0	1	32.0	30	10	38
54	Brendon Little	L-L	6-2	195	8/11/96	TORONTO	4-2	3.03	79	0	1	68.1	48	45	91
64	Adam Macko	L-L	6-0	170	12/30/00	Buffalo (AAA)	3-8	5.06	18	10	0	64.0	61	36	65
						FCL Blue Jays (R)	0-1	3.63	5	4	0	17.1	14	3	26
	Spencer Miles	L-R	6-3	180	7/26/00	Injured — Missed Season									
45	Tommy Nance	R-R	6-6	235	3/19/91	TORONTO	2-0	1.99	30	0	0	31.2	25	7	32
						Buffalo (AAA)	0-4	4.60	27	0	4	31.1	31	7	42
	Cody Ponce	R-R	6-6	255	4/25/94	Hanwha Eagles (Korea)	17-1	1.89	29	29	0	180.2	128	41	252
	Tyler Rogers	R-R	6-3	180	12/17/90	SAN FRANCISCO	4-3	1.80	53	0	0	50.0	39	4	38
						NEW YORK NL	0-3	2.30	28	0	0	27.1	27	3	10
	Ricky Tiedemann	L-L	6-4	220	8/18/02	Injured — Missed Season									
77	Louis Varland	L-R	6-1	205	12/9/97	TORONTO	1-0	4.94	23	1	0	23.2	24	9	28
						MINNESOTA	3-3	2.02	51	0	0	49.0	41	13	47
39	Trey Yesavage	R-R	6-4	225	7/28/03	TORONTO	1-0	3.21	3	3	0	14.0	13	7	16
						Buffalo (AAA)	0-0	3.63	6	4	0	17.1	9	11	26
						New Hampshire (AA)	1-1	4.50	8	7	0	30.0	21	11	46
						Vancouver (A+)	1-0	1.56	4	4	0	17.1	5	11	33
						Dunedin (A)	3-0	2.43	7	7	0	33.1	19	8	55

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
55	Tyler Heineman	S-R	5-10	190	6/19/91	TORONTO	.289	64	149	25	43	3	20	12	31	2
						Buffalo (AAA)	.500	2	4	1	2	0	1	2	0	0
30	Alejandro Kirk	R-R	5-8	245	11/6/98	TORONTO	.282	130	451	45	127	15	76	48	59	1
						Buffalo (AAA)	.333	1	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
	Brandon Valenzuela	S-R	6-1	225	10/2/00	Buffalo (AAA)	.207	26	92	9	19	3	12	12	32	0
						San Antonio (AA)	.229	87	328	42	75	12	46	40	83	6

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
47	Addison Barger	L-R	6-0	210	11/12/99	TORONTO	.243	135	460	61	112	21	74	36	121	4
						Buffalo (AAA)	.211	12	38	6	8	2	7	5	13	0
22	Ernie Clement	R-R	5-11	170	3/22/96	TORONTO	.277	157	545	83	151	9	50	27	61	6
0	Andrés Giménez	L-R	5-11	161	9/4/98	TORONTO	.210	101	329	39	69	7	35	25	66	12
						Buffalo (AAA)	.389	5	18	3	7	0	1	0	5	1
						Dunedin (A)	.167	4	12	0	2	0	3	2	1	0
27	Vladimir Guerrero Jr.	R-R	6-0	245	3/16/99	TORONTO	.292	156	589	96	172	23	84	81	94	6
49	Leo Jiménez	R-R	5-10	215	5/17/01	TORONTO	.069	18	29	2	2	1	1	2	8	0
						Buffalo (AAA)	.304	19	56	12	17	0	4	11	13	0
						Dunedin (A)	.250	6	24	3	6	0	2	2	5	0
						FCL Blue Jays (R)	1.000	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
7	Kazuma Okamoto	R-R	6-0	212	6/30/96	Yomiuri Giants (Japan CL)	.327	69	251	38	82	15	49	33	33	0
						Yomiuri Giants (Japan EL)	.263	8	19	1	5	0	2	1	3	0

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
8	Jonatan Clase	S-R	5-10	150	5/23/02	TORONTO	.210	34	100	10	21	2	9	10	28	3
						Buffalo (AAA)	.255	87	310	41	79	7	21	35	90	30
10	Joey Loperfido	L-R	6-2	220	5/11/99	TORONTO	.333	41	96	12	32	4	14	4	27	1
						Buffalo (AAA)	.264	91	329	46	87	7	44	29	80	11
38	Nathan Lukes	L-R	5-11	180	7/12/94	TORONTO	.255	135	388	55	99	12	65	38	60	2
						Buffalo (AAA)	.571	2	7	2	4	1	5	0	1	0
25	Anthony Santander	S-R	6-0	230	10/19/94	TORONTO	.175	54	194	16	34	6	18	25	61	0
						Buffalo (AAA)	.219	10	32	4	7	2	5	6	6	0
36	Davis Schneider	R-R	5-9	190	1/26/99	TORONTO	.234	82	188	33	44	11	31	36	60	3
						Buffalo (AAA)	.226	38	133	17	30	4	18	24	46	3
4	George Springer	R-R	6-1	220	9/19/89	TORONTO	.309	140	498	106	154	32	84	69	111	18
						Buffalo (AAA)	.400	2	5	3	2	1	1	1	0	0
3	Myles Straw	R-R	5-9	178	10/17/94	TORONTO	.262	137	267	51	70	4	32	19	50	12
5	Daulton Varsho	L-R	5-8	207	7/2/96	TORONTO	.238	71	248	43	59	20	55	17	77	2
						Buffalo (AAA)	.133	8	30	2	4	1	5	1	8	0
						Dunedin (A)	.286	5	14	3	4	2	5	0	4	0
						FCL Blue Jays (R)	.000	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Chicago WHITE SOX

2026 PREDICTION
5TH
AL CENTRAL
2025 FINISH: 5TH (60-102)

The White Sox registered a 19-game improvement last season, the second-biggest jump in the major leagues. But even with another 19-game improvement in 2026, the Sox would remain a sub-.500, 79-win squad. Consider that a perfect snapshot of how far the franchise has slipped — and how far it must climb. General manager Chris Getz believes he has identified the core group to return to contention, but the White Sox lack power, a proven outfield, starting pitching and shut-down relievers.

ROTATION

Multiple big-league squads will have a single pitcher who will make more money than the entire White Sox staff this season. Four starters and all but one bullpen arm are not yet arbitration eligible, creating a staff that will be led on payday by Anthony Kay, who has four career MLB victories and is returning from two seasons in Japan on a two-year, $12 million contract. Shane Smith, a Rule 5 pick last season, outperformed expectations, leading the team in strikeouts, innings and WHIP. But after splitting his first six decisions, Smith went 76 days between victories before rallying to win three games in September. Davis Martin returned to full health and assumed the leadership role once filled by Garret Crochet, inviting the club's other starters to his ranch in Texas for offseason team bonding. After three straight 100-loss seasons, Martin is tired of losing. Kay, who made his MLB debut with Toronto in 2019, added a cutter and improved changeup in Japan while pitching to a 1.74 ERA for the Yokohama Bay Stars last season. Kay is the team's only projected left-handed starter. The final two positions will be decided in spring training. Although 2025 Opening Day starter Sean Burke made 22 starts and Jonathan Cannon had 17, both were sent to Triple-A after the All-Star Game. They will come to camp with no guarantees. The Sox need top prospects Noah Schultz and Hagen Smith to make major improvements and hope Drew Thorpe and Ky Bush return from Tommy John surgery by late spring.

BULLPEN

Manager Will Venable said he was not tied to committing to one closer. He did not explain if that was because nobody separated himself for the job or if he believes in spreading the assignment. The Sox blew nearly half (24) of their 49 save opportunities. After slicing more than two runs from his ERA and averaging better than a strikeout per inning, Jordan Leasure is the best high-leverage right-handed option. Journeyman Sean Newcomb had success in the A's bullpen over the final two months. He arrives via free agency as a left-handed option.

MIDDLE INFIELD

Getz has scrambled to fix this part of his roster for more than two years, but two newcomers finally provided some answers in the middle of the diamond. Second baseman Chase Meidroth was considered no better than the third-best piece

COLSON MONTGOMERY

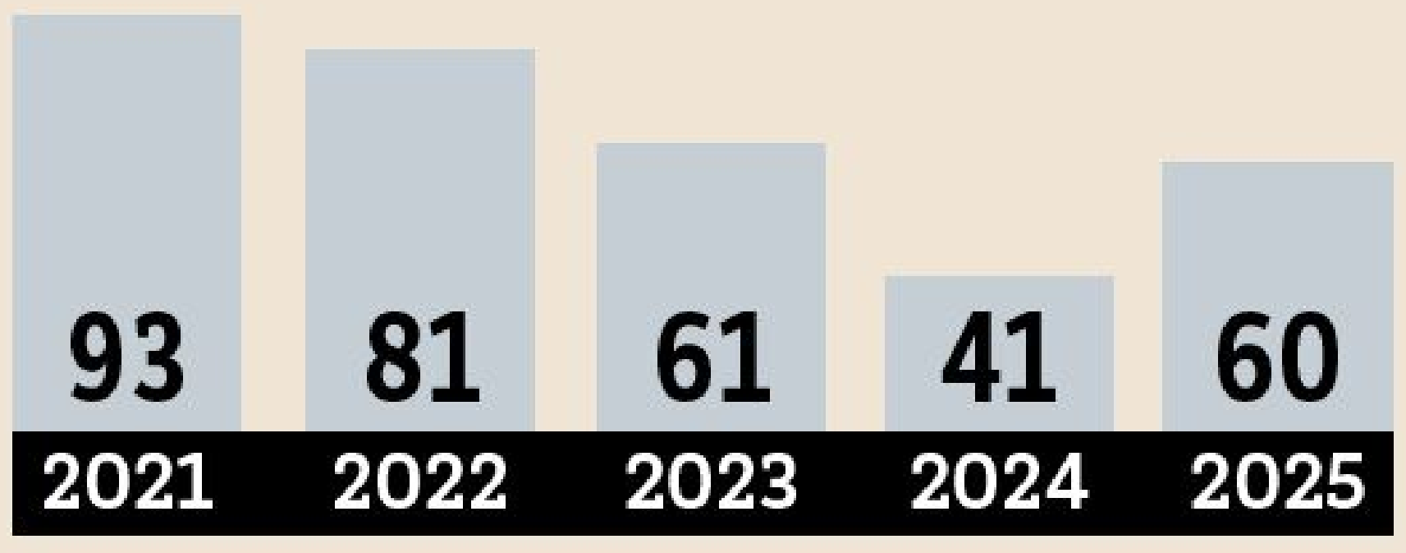
KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

Rate Field

Opened: 1991 • Capacity: 40,615
Left: 330′ Center: 400′ Right: 335′
Tickets: 866-SOX-GAME
mlb.com/WHITESOX

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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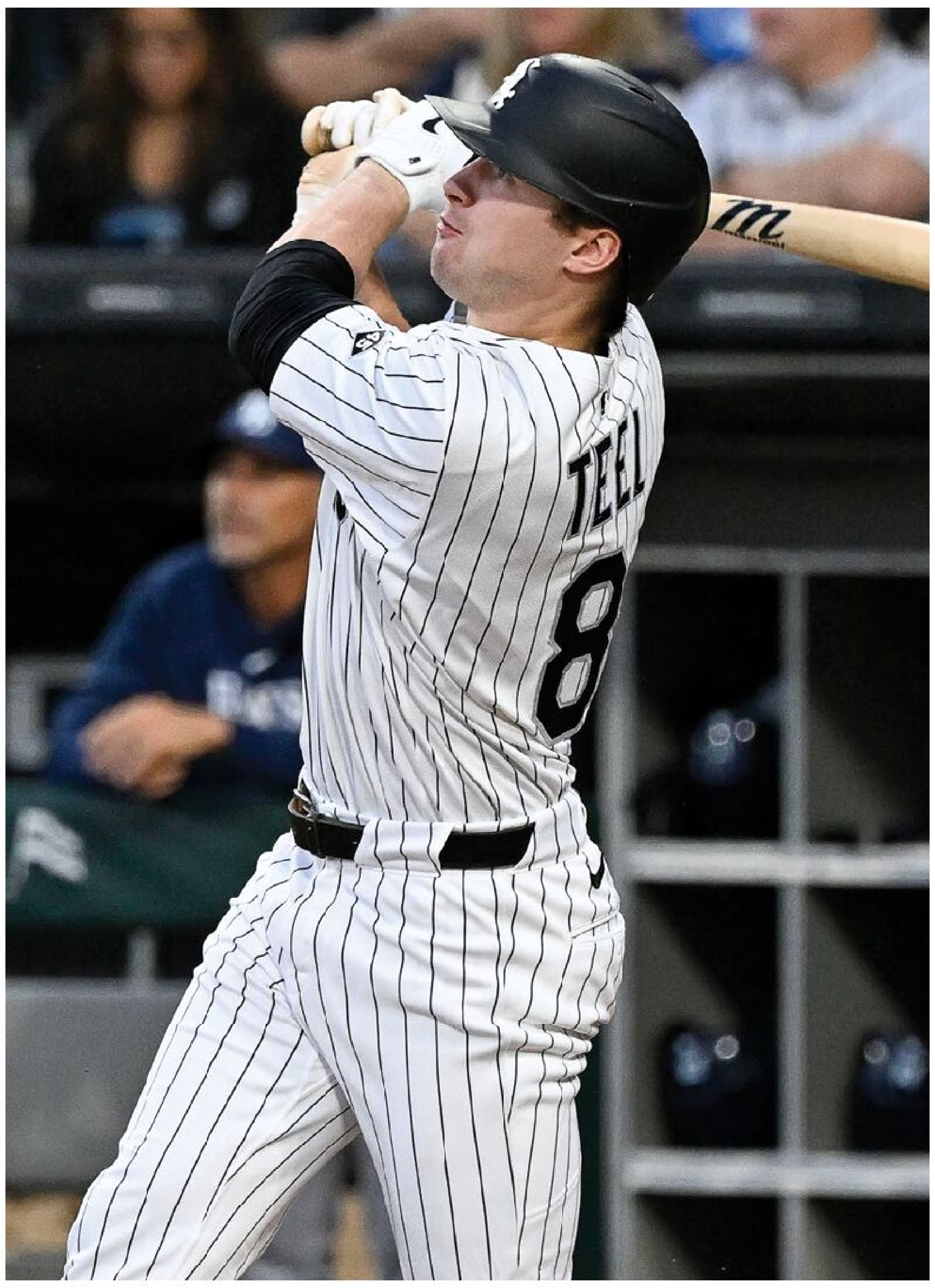
Statline

Highest rate of contact made that is squared up, 2025

1. Mookie Betts, Dodgers	47.1%
2. Luis Arraez, Padres	45.0%
3. Chase Meidroth, White Sox	**44.1%**
4. Maikel Garcia, Royals	44.1%
5. Edgar Quero, White Sox	**43.3%**

the Sox acquired from the Boston Red Sox for Crochet, but he was the first to arrive in Chicago. Meidroth played to his pedigree — a solid defender who works counts (45 walks), tries to hit the ball in gaps and steals bases (14). Shortstop Colson Montgomery, the team's No. 1 pick out of high school in 2021, had the most unusual season of any AL rookie. After failing to make the team in spring training, Montgomery was striking out in nearly 38% of his Triple-A at-bats. The Sox sent him to their training complex in Phoenix to work with hitting coordinator Ryan Fuller for two weeks. Bingo. Montgomery got to the big leagues on July 4 and flashed colossal power. He hit 21 home runs and nine doubles while driving in 55 runs in just 71 games. He also dropped his strikeout rate to 32.5%.

CORNERS


KYLE TEEL

The search for a first baseman to fill the Frank Thomas-Paul Konerko-José Abreu legacy took the Sox to Japan. In their biggest free-agent signing in three seasons, they signed Munetaka Murakami, 26, who won the Japanese Triple Crown in 2022. The Sox were the surprise winners of the Murakami sweepstakes with a two-year, $34 million deal that developed after other buyers hesitated because of Murakami's 28.6% strikeout rate and concerns about his ability to hit high velocity. Murakami averaged 36 home runs over the past four seasons, including a career-best 56 in 2022. He can play either corner, but the Sox will start him at first. Miguel Vargas has the first crack at third base while also serving as the backup first baseman. Before Fuller fixed Montgomery, he suggested a different hand placement for Vargas, who went on to lead the team with 50 extra-base hits while driving in a career-best 60 runs.

OUTFIELD

The Sox will make their largest payroll investment in the outfield, paying center fielder Luis Robert Jr. $20 million and left fielder Andrew Benintendi $17.1 million. Neither has flashed close to an All-Star performance the past two seasons. Robert has missed a combined 114 games over the past two seasons with leg injuries. The Sox need Robert to return to his 2023 slash line of .264/.315/.542 or to trade him. Injuries limited Benintendi to 116 games last

PROJECTED LINEUP

▪ LINEUP

2B	Chase Meidroth (R)
C	Kyle Teel (L)
CF	Luis Robert Jr. (R)
1B	Munetaka Murakami (L)
DH	Lenyn Sosa (R)
SS	Colson Montgomery (L)
3B	Miguel Vargas (R)
LF	Andrew Benintendi (L)
RF	Derek Hill (R)

▪ BENCH

C	Edgar Quero (S)
INF/OF	Brooks Baldwin (S)
OF	Everson Pereira (R)
OF	Tristan Peters (L)

▪ ROTATION

RHP	Shane Smith
RHP	Davis Martin
LHP	Anthony Kay
RHP	Sean Burke
RHP	Jonathan Cannon

▪ BULLPEN

RHP	Jordan Leasure (C)
RHP	Mike Vasil
RHP	Grant Taylor
RHP	Wikelman González
RHP	Jedixson Paez
LHP	Brandon Eisert
LHP	Tyler Gilbert
LHP	Sean Newcomb

MATT MARTON-IMAGN IMAGES

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE WHITE SOX "It was a big difference from the year before with these guys. Just the attitude and the energy of the team was totally different. You could tell and each time you played them, they improved in every aspect. Their confidence, their energy level, even toward the end of the year, that dugout was fired up. That's a credit to Will Venable. I can see it turning around really quick — we've seen recently that in that division, anybody can flip the script. Now, they're still rebuilding, so if they get anything out of Luis Robert Jr., they should trade him — and when he came back from the injury, he was pretty good. But I really liked Kyle Teel, and the kid Colson Montgomery — kind of like every young American player now, he's got a lot of power and a lot of swing and miss. Overall their at-bats were a lot better, the guys were controlling the zone a lot better, so it wasn't just easy where you're going to roll in there, rest guys and win. They're hungry, and they've got pitchers like Shane Smith, Davis Martin and Sean Burke who keep them in games. I like the Anthony Kay signing, too — a lefty with experience who succeeded in Japan. Low-risk, why not?"

season. Although he hit 20 home runs, he has minimal range and a weak arm with a sub-par on-base percentage of .307. The right field picture is cloudy. They need Braden Montgomery, who arrived via the Crochet trade after being drafted in the first round by the Red Sox in 2024, to earn a promotion by early summer.

CATCHING

Kyle Teel, another part of the Crochet trade, and Edgar Quero forced their way onto the roster last summer and proved they belonged. Playing with boundless energy, Teel earned a slight edge as the No. 1 with better framing numbers as well as a superb eye that helped him reach base at a .375 rate. His left-handed power generated eight home runs and 11 doubles in 253 at-bats. Quero is a switch-hitter who made the majors at 22, leading the Sox to believe he will add more strength and improve his totals of five homers and 17 doubles.

DH/BENCH

Brooks Baldwin can play everywhere except catcher. If Baldwin improves his 28.6% strikeout rate, he has the power (11 homers, 15 doubles) to earn an outfield corner spot. Derek Hill, Everson Pereira and Tristan Peters are journeymen who have yet to show the ability to hit well enough to become regulars. One will likely get the right field job. The other two will be reserves. If Korey Lee sticks as a backup catcher, it will enable the Sox to use Quero or Teel as DH. Lee also experimented in left field in September.

MANAGEMENT

Venable's positivity and energy were welcome changes in the Sox dugout. The team's young core responded to his patient approach, showing improvement after the All-Star break by bumping the Sox' winning percentage from .330 to .431. Getz has made progress retooling the entire organization but is held back by ownership's unwillingness to invest in expensive free agents.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The White Sox should continue the progress they began showing in July. But the outfield is a mess, the corner infielders are unproven and the pitching staff is waiting on the arrival of prospects who failed to impress last summer. They might catch the Twins, but they're no threat to the Tigers, Royals or Guardians.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

MANY BLESSINGS The White Sox always have an interesting list of invitees to throw out a first pitch, but one name will top the list until he accepts the offer. Pope Leo XIV is a confirmed White Sox fan who grew up 20 minutes from the park. There is video of his fandom to prove it — first of the future pope attending the 2005 World Series and then of the pope wearing a Sox hat at The Vatican. The pope emphasized his understanding of the Cubs-Sox rivalry in a viral video. When somebody yelled, "Go Cubs!," the pope turned and replied "Han Perdido. They lost!" referring to their Cubs' playoff exit against the Brewers

CHANGE, EVENTUALLY Team chairman Jerry Reinsdorf will be 90 when the 2026 season begins, starting his 46th season as the primary owner. Change is coming but not until 2029. Billionaire Chicago native Justin Ishbia abandoned his pursuit of the Twins to increase his minority ownership of the Sox. Ishbia also made a cash infusion to the White Sox. Terms of the deal show that a complete ownership change will not occur until 2029.

TEAM VENABLE Sox manager Will Venable retained several members of Pedro Grifol's staff during his first season as Sox manager, but Year 2 will see a Venable makeover and expansion of a coaching staff to 12 men. That includes new pitching coach Zach Bove (formerly with the Royals), hitting coach Derek Shomon (Marlins) and field coordinator Chris Denorfia (Rockies).

Schedule

■ HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 MIL	27	28 MIL
29 MIL	30 MIA	31 MIA	1 MIA	2 TOR	3	4 TOR
5 TOR	6 BAL	7 BAL	8 BAL	9 KC	10 KC	11 KC
12 KC	13	14 TB	15 TB	16 TB	17 A's	18 A's
19 A's	20	21 ARI	22 ARI	23 ARI	24 WAS	25 WAS
26 WAS	27 LAA	28 LAA	29 LAA	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 SD	2 SD
3 SD	4 LAA	5 LAA	6 LAA	7	8 SEA	9 SEA
10 SEA	11	12 KC	13 KC	14 KC	15 CHC	16 CHC
17 CHC	18 SEA	19 SEA	20 SEA	21	22 SF	23 SF
24 SF	25 MIN	26 MIN	27 MIN	28 MIN	29 DET	30 DET
31 DET						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 MIN	2 MIN	3 MIN	4	5 PHI	6 PHI
7 PHI	8	9 ATL	10 ATL	11 ATL	12 LAD	13 LAD
14 LAD	15	16 NYY	17 NYY	18 NYY	19 DET	20 DET
21 DET	22 CLE	23 CLE	24 CLE	25	26 KC	27 KC
28 KC	29 BAL	30 BAL				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 BAL	2 CLE	3 CLE	4 CLE
5 CLE	6	7 BOS	8 BOS	9 BOS	10 A's	11 A's
12 A's	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 TOR	18 TOR
19 TOR	20 TEX	21 TEX	22 TEX	23	24 HOU	25 HOU
26 HOU	27 NYY	28 NYY	29 NYY	30 NYY	31 TB	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 TB
2 TB	3	4 BOS	5 BOS	6 BOS	7 CLE	8 CLE
9 CLE	10	11 CIN	12 CIN	13 CIN	14 DET	15 DET
16 DET	17 CHC	18 CHC	19 CHC	20	21 NYM	22 NYM
23 NYM	24 TEX	25 TEX	26 TEX	27	28 MIN	29 MIN
30 MIN	31 HOU					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 HOU	2 HOU	3 HOU	4 MIN	5 MIN
6 MIN	7	8 PIT	9 PIT	10 PIT	11 STL	12 STL
13 STL	14 CLE	15 CLE	16 CLE	17 DET	18 DET	19 DET
20 DET	21	22 KC	23 KC	24 KC	25 COL	26 COL
27 COL	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

1 For the first time since 1977, the White Sox will pick first in the MLB Draft.

◆

12.1 Average at-bats per home run by shortstop Colson Montgomery over final three months of 2025.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

ALLAN HENRY-IMAGN IMAGES

1. Noah Schultz, LHP (22) Injuries have slowed his development, but stuff remains intriguing.

2. Caleb Bonemer, SS (20) Carolina League MVP also produced in 11 games in High-A.

3. Braden Montgomery, OF (22) Talented switch-hitter delivered 50 extra-base hits while earning two promotions.

4. Hagen Smith, LHP (22) Sox first-round pick in 2024 has elite stuff, but control needs work.

5. Billy Carlson, SS (19) Considered the best defensive prep shortstop in the 2025 draft.

6. Tanner McDougal, RHP (22) Nasty righthander struck out 136 in 113.1 innings while advancing to Double-A.

7. Sam Antonacci, 2B (23) On-base machine punctuated solid season by becoming an Arizona Fall League All-Star.

8. Christian Oppor, LHP (21) Struck out 116 in 87.2 innings while flashing an elite changeup.

9. Jaden Fauske, OF, (19) Sox' 2025 second-round pick earned praise from Jim Thome for solid left-handed stroke.

10. Jedixson Paez, RHP (22) Righthander with elite control could make team as Rule 5 pick from the Red Sox.

White Sox Roster

Executive Vice President/General Manager: Chris Getz • **Manager:** Will Venable • **Coaches:** Zach Bove (pitching), Bobby Hearn (asst. pitching), Justin Jirschele (third base/infield), Jose Leger (first base/outfield), Joel McKeithan (asst. hitting), Walker McKinven (bench), Tony Medina (assistant), Derek Shomon (hitting), Matt Wise (bullpen)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
	Alexander Alberto	R-R	6-8	203	11/2/01	Bowling Green (A+)	2-2	2.83	31	0	3	35.0	30	17	45
						Charleston (A)	0-0	1.98	11	0	3	13.2	6	4	19
66	Prelander Berroa	R-R	5-11	215	4/18/00	Injured — Missed Season									
59	Sean Burke	R-R	6-6	240	12/18/99	**CHICAGO AL**	4-11	4.22	28	22	0	134.1	131	63	133
						Charlotte (AAA)	0-3	7.82	3	3	0	12.2	18	5	15
	Ky Bush	L-L	6-6	250	11/12/99	Injured — Missed Season									
48	Jonathan Cannon	R-R	6-6	225	7/19/00	**CHICAGO AL**	4-10	5.82	22	17	0	103.2	116	38	86
						Charlotte (AAA)	1-3	5.40	7	7	0	31.2	39	14	21
	Duncan Davitt	R-R	6-3	235	9/23/99	Charlotte (AAA)	2-3	5.03	9	9	0	48.1	39	24	45
						Durham (AAA)	0-2	6.30	4	4	0	20.0	25	6	24
						Montgomery (AA)	5-3	3.55	15	15	0	83.2	75	15	81
53	Brandon Eisert	L-L	6-2	210	1/19/98	**CHICAGO AL**	3-8	4.39	72	3	2	69.2	75	25	74
						Charlotte (AAA)	0-0	4.50	2	0	0	2.0	3	1	3
40	Tyler Gilbert	L-L	6-3	225	12/22/93	**CHICAGO AL**	4-2	3.88	46	5	1	51.0	40	24	49
						Charlotte (AAA)	0-0	12.00	6	0	0	6.0	8	5	7
66	Wikelman González	R-R	6-0	220	3/25/02	**CHICAGO AL**	1-0	2.66	16	0	0	20.1	13	12	25
						Charlotte (AAA)	6-2	5.18	22	0	0	33.0	22	27	30
						Birmingham (AA)	0-2	4.41	4	4	0	16.1	13	14	21
60	Bryan Hudson	L-L	6-8	248	5/8/97	**CHICAGO AL**	0-0	5.79	4	0	0	4.2	7	1	6
						Charlotte (AAA)	0-0	2.70	5	0	0	6.2	6	2	6
						MILWAUKEE	0-1	4.35	12	0	0	10.1	8	12	13
						Nashville (AAA)	2-1	6.84	25	0	2	25.0	27	12	25
58	Jairo Iriarte	R-R	6-4	240	12/15/01	Charlotte (AAA)	2-3	7.24	35	5	1	46.0	53	37	48
						ACL White Sox (R)	1-0	4.50	2	0	0	2.0	2	0	2
	Anthony Kay	L-L	6-0	225	3/21/95	Yokohama (Japan CL)	9-6	1.74	24	NA	0	155.0	111	41	130
49	Jordan Leasure	R-R	6-3	220	8/15/98	**CHICAGO AL**	5-6	3.92	68	1	7	64.1	49	30	81
65	Davis Martin	L-R	6-2	215	1/4/97	**CHICAGO AL**	7-10	4.10	26	25	0	142.2	136	48	104
						Charlotte (AAA)	0-0	4.76	2	2	0	5.2	7	1	5
	Tanner McDougal	R-R	6-5	185	4/9/03	Birmingham (AA)	3-2	3.23	15	15	0	55.2	49	17	63
						Winston-Salem (A+)	0-3	3.28	13	13	0	57.2	53	32	73
	Chris Murphy	L-L	6-1	186	6/5/98	**BOSTON**	3-0	3.12	23	0	0	34.2	21	20	30
						Worcester (AAA)	1-0	3.38	13	2	0	21.1	18	13	22
						Portland (AA)	0-0	2.25	3	1	0	4.0	4	1	2
						Greenville (A+)	0-0	0.00	2	2	0	2.1	1	2	5
	Sean Newcomb	L-L	6-5	255	6/12/93	**BOSTON**	0-4	3.95	12	5	0	41.0	55	17	41
						ATHLETICS	2-1	1.75	36	0	2	51.1	39	14	50
	Jedixson Paez	R-R	6-1	170	1/17/04	Greenville (A+)	0-3	2.79	7	7	0	19.1	18	3	23
64	Shane Smith	R-R	6-3	240	4/4/00	**CHICAGO AL**	7-8	3.81	29	29	0	146.1	117	58	145
31	Grant Taylor	R-R	6-3	230	5/20/02	**CHICAGO AL**	2-4	4.91	36	2	6	36.2	37	15	54
						Birmingham (AA)	0-1	1.01	15	6	0	26.2	12	11	37
33	Drew Thorpe	L-R	6-4	220	10/1/00	Injured — Missed Season									
61	Mike Vasil	L-R	6-5	225	3/19/00	**CHICAGO AL**	5-3	2.50	47	3	4	101.0	74	52	82

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
26	Korey Lee	R-R	6-0	225	7/25/98	**CHICAGO AL**	.257	26	35	10	9	1	3	4	7	0
						Charlotte (AAA)	.255	55	220	34	56	8	28	17	55	5
7	Edgar Quero	S-R	5-10	205	4/6/03	**CHICAGO AL**	.268	111	365	31	98	5	36	32	71	0
						Charlotte (AAA)	.333	15	51	9	17	1	4	11	14	0
8	Kyle Teel	L-R	6-0	210	2/15/02	**CHICAGO AL**	.273	78	253	38	69	8	35	37	77	3
						Charlotte (AAA)	.295	50	183	34	54	8	30	30	54	7

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Ben Cowles	R-R	6-1	180	2/15/00	Charlotte (AAA)	.220	15	59	6	13	0	5	5	20	2
						Iowa (AAA)	.238	113	421	55	100	9	44	33	132	16
29	Curtis Mead	R-R	6-1	225	10/26/00	**CHICAGO AL**	.240	41	125	12	30	0	11	3	30	1
						Charlotte (AAA)	.571	2	7	2	4	0	2	3	2	0
						TAMPA BAY	.226	49	115	14	26	3	8	12	33	4
						Durham (AAA)	.264	14	53	10	14	3	7	4	15	0
10	Chase Meidroth	R-R	5-10	190	7/23/01	**CHICAGO AL**	.253	122	450	54	114	5	23	45	72	14
						Charlotte (AAA)	.267	9	30	11	8	3	4	8	5	2
12	Colson Montgomery	L-R	6-3	230	2/27/02	**CHICAGO AL**	.239	71	255	43	61	21	55	25	83	0
						Charlotte (AAA)	.218	55	216	27	47	11	30	19	82	2
						ACL White Sox (R)	.176	5	17	3	3	0	2	2	4	2
5	Munetaka Murakami	L-R	6-2	213	2/2/00	Yakult Swallows (Japan CL)	.273	56	187	34	51	22	47	32	64	4
						Yakult Swallows (Japan EL)	.364	13	33	6	12	2	5	6	7	1
	Tanner Murray	R-R	6-1	190	9/3/99	Durham (AAA)	.241	137	522	67	126	18	58	39	138	5
44	Bryan Ramos	R-R	6-2	225	3/12/02	**CHICAGO AL**	.167	4	12	1	2	0	2	0	4	0
						Charlotte (AAA)	.216	105	371	60	80	16	51	42	96	13
50	Lenyn Sosa	R-R	5-11	210	1/25/00	**CHICAGO AL**	.264	140	518	57	137	22	75	18	127	2
						Charlotte (AAA)	.100	3	10	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
20	Miguel Vargas	R-R	6-2	225	11/17/99	**CHICAGO AL**	.234	138	504	80	118	16	60	56	100	6

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
27	Brooks Baldwin	S-R	6-1	195	8/15/00	**CHICAGO AL**	.240	103	300	32	72	11	38	21	86	5
						Charlotte (AAA)	.368	29	117	29	43	12	25	12	22	4
23	Andrew Benintendi	L-L	5-10	185	7/6/94	**CHICAGO AL**	.240	116	420	57	101	20	63	40	82	1
						Charlotte (AAA)	.125	2	8	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
47	Derek Hill	R-R	6-0	206	12/30/95	**CHICAGO AL**	.286	4	7	0	2	0	1	0	2	0
						MIAMI	.213	53	127	19	27	3	10	9	46	7
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.171	12	41	3	7	0	2	5	14	3
	Everson Pereira	R-R	5-11	203	4/10/01	**TAMPA BAY**	.138	23	65	7	9	2	8	7	28	2
						Durham (AAA)	.276	8	29	3	8	2	5	5	10	0
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	.254	70	268	68	68	19	52	38	90	9
	Tristan Peters	L-R	6-0	180	2/29/00	**TAMPA BAY**	.000	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
						Durham (AAA)	.266	136	482	73	128	15	76	65	102	11
88	Luis Robert Jr.	R-R	6-2	225	8/3/97	**CHICAGO AL**	.223	110	382	52	85	14	53	40	112	33

Cleveland GUARDIANS

2026 PREDICTION
3RD
AL CENTRAL
2025 FINISH: 1ST (88-74)

The Guardians will not repeat their historic 2025 season in 2026, but they will contend for their third straight AL Central title. Last year, they did the improbable, rallying from a 15.5-game deficit in July and an 11-game deficit in September to catch and pass the Detroit Tigers on the final day of the regular season to win the Central. It was the biggest comeback in MLB history.

The best facet of the 2026 Guardians will be the pitching staff. They have a young, promising rotation and a bullpen that rallied after losing All-Star closer Emmanuel Clase to a betting scandal in late July. The Guardians' biggest weakness is an offense that the front office did little to improve during the offseason. They believe the young players they've acquired over the past several years represent the best chance for the offense to flourish.

ROTATION

Tanner Bibee remains the ace of the staff, but Gavin Williams, who had a breakout season in 2025, will push him. Bibee and Williams each made 31 starts last season. It was nothing new for Bibee, but Williams had never made more than 16 starts in the big leagues before 2025. Logan Allen, Slade Cecconi, Joey Cantillo and rookie Parker Messick will compete for the three other spots. The strength of the rotation came to light last season when the Guardians went 20-7 in September after switching to a six-man rotation.

BULLPEN

The 'pen finished with the third-best ERA in the big leagues last season, but the Guardians spent a good part of the offseason adding relievers to try and negate the loss of Clase, who was indicted along with teammate Luis Ortiz by federal prosecutors in November. Cleveland signed free agents Shawn Armstrong, Colin Holderman and Connor Brogdon and selected Peyton Pallette from the White Sox in the Rule 5 Draft. Cade Smith, who replaced Clase last season as closer, will assume the same role with set-up men Hunter Gaddis, Tim Herrin, Erik Sabrowski and Matt Festa working in front of him.

MIDDLE INFIELD

Shortstop Gabriel Arias and second baseman Brayan Rocchio will open in the middle of the diamond. Rocchio was the Opening Day shortstop in 2024 and '25 but lost his job to Arias when he was optioned to the minors for not hitting in the early part of the season. When Rocchio returned, he moved to second and is still learning the position. Travis Bazzana, the No. 1 overall pick in 2024, could make his big-league debut at second this season after reaching Triple-A in '25.

CORNERS

As José Ramírez goes, so go the Guardians. He produced another MVP-type season last year, but the fear is that if the Guardians don't get him some legitimate offensive help, he may never reach his stated goal of winning a World

JOSÉ RAMÍREZ

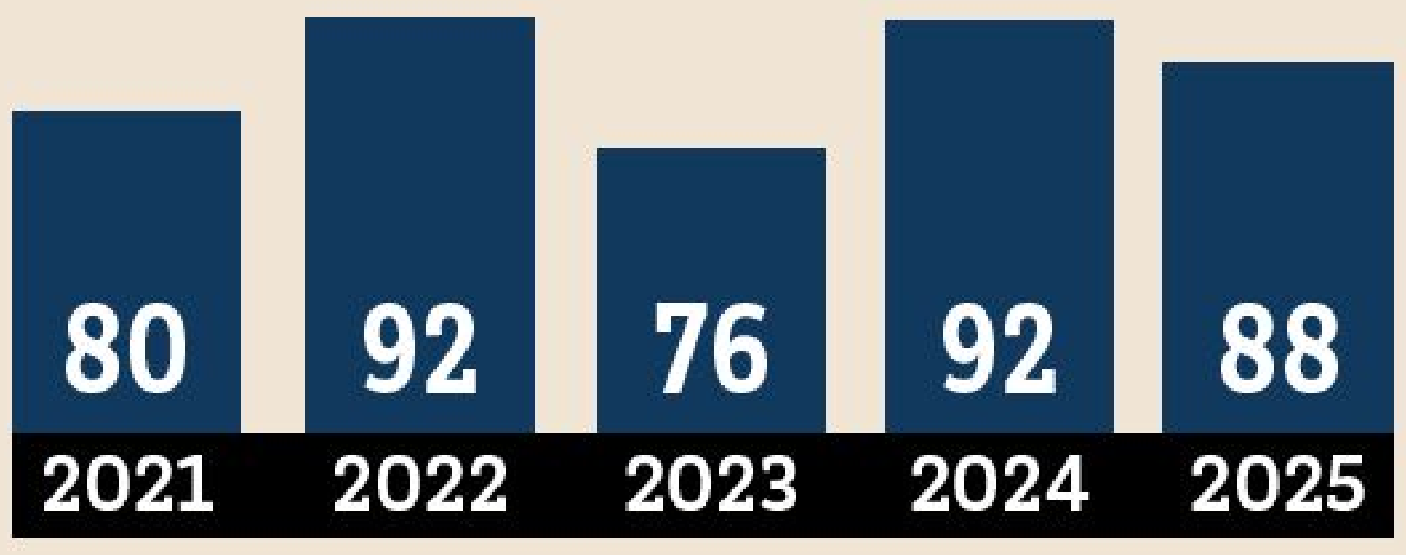
MATT KROHN-IMAGN IMAGES

Progressive Field

Opened: 1994 • Capacity: 34,820
Left: 325' Center: 410' Right: 325'
Tickets: 216-420-4487
mlb.com/GUARDIANS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Highest walk-to-strikeout ratio among qualified AL hitters, 2025

1. Steven Kwan, Guardians	**0.92**
2. José Ramírez, Guardians	**0.89**
3. Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Blue Jays	0.86
4. Gleyber Torres, Tigers	0.84
5. Nolan Schanuel, Angels	0.83

Series title for Cleveland. Ramírez, 33, has three years left on his contract and just delivered his second straight 30/40 season (30 home runs, 44 steals). Kyle Manzardo has the inside track at first base. In his first full season last year, Manzardo finished second on the team to Ramírez with 27 homers and 70 RBIs. After last season, the Guardians told Manzardo that he needed to get stronger so he could be an everyday presence in the lineup. Defensively, Manzardo needs work at first base. C.J. Kayfus and David Fry (as long as he's recovered from reconstructive surgery on his right elbow) are other options at first base.

OUTFIELD

The only outfielder on the roster who knows where he's going to be playing every day is left fielder Steven Kwan, who has won four Gold Gloves. While Kwan has established himself as one of the better leadoff hitters in the big leagues, the Guardians platoon several players in center and right field. Rookie Chase DeLauter made his big-league debut in center field last year during the wild-card series. If he wants to keep the job, he must avoid the injuries that have dogged his career to date. Angel Martínez, Petey Halpin and Nolan Jones are candidates as well. In right field, George Valera, Johnathan Rodríguez, Jones and Kayfus are possibilities. Spring training invitee Stuart Fairchild will figure in the mix as well.

STEVEN KWAN

KEN BLAZE-IMAGN IMAGES

CATCHING

Is Bo Naylor a starting catcher or not? The debate about the Guardians' No.1 pick in 2018 continues. In his second full year behind the plate last season, he hit .195 (70 for 359) but did connect for 14 homers. The coaching staff and pitchers give him good grades for his defense and game-calling, but his bat hasn't caught up. Naylor came up big late, hitting .290 (18 for 62) with an .872 OPS in September when the Guardians chased down the Tigers. Austin Hedges, who re-signed with the Guardians almost immediately after they were eliminated by Detroit in the wild-card series, will be Naylor's backup. Hedges is a solid defensive catcher and an important voice on the bench and in the clubhouse.

DH/BENCH

When Ramírez needs a day off from third base, he usually DHs with utility man Daniel Schneemann replacing him. The platoon of Fry and Manzardo is

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

LF	Steven Kwan (L)
RF	George Valera (L)
3B	Jose Ramírez (S)
1B	Kyle Manzardo (L)
SS	Gabriel Arias (R)
CF	Chase DeLauter (L)
DH	David Fry (R)
C	Bo Naylor (L)
2B	Bryan Rocchio (S)

■ BENCH

UTIL	Daniel Schneemann (L)
UTIL	Angel Martínez (S)
C	Austin Hedges (R)
OF	Nolan Jones (L)

■ ROTATION

RHP	Tanner Bibee
RHP	Gavin Williams
LHP	Logan Allen
RHP	Slade Cecconi
LHP	Joey Cantillo
LHP	Parker Messick

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Cade Smith (C)
RHP	Hunter Gaddis
RHP	Shawn Armstrong
RHP	Matt Festa
LHP	Tim Herrin
RHP	Peyton Pallette
RHP	Connor Brogdon

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE GUARDIANS "They're not good at everything, but they really know what they're good at. It's tough to play them because it's almost like every game is a playoff game. They are not afraid to bring those same guys in from the bullpen three days in a row. So they really shorten the game, which might also keep their starters healthy — Tanner Bibee, Gavin Williams, Logan Allen, Slade Cecconi, I don't think they ever missed a turn. They're very strong defensively, and then they try to score just enough runs. They're mostly singles hitters, so I would walk José Ramírez every chance I get. He is so far and away their best player; you just cannot let him beat you. I don't know if anyone else can get much better. Kyle Manzardo, maybe; it's just what he's willing to sacrifice. If he could sacrifice a little bit of power for more contact, he'd actually probably have a higher slug because he'd hit a lot more doubles."

expected to share most of the opportunities at DH. No one sits too long on the Guardians' bench. The team mantra goes like this: Everybody gets to play at least one game during a series. Schneemann played six different positions last year and was a Gold Glove finalist as a utility player, while Jones started games at all three outfield positions.

MANAGEMENT

The only thing missing from Stephen Vogt's first two years as manager was a ticker-tape parade down Euclid Avenue. Vogt, who had never managed at any level after retiring as a player in 2022, has led the Guardians to AL Central titles in his first two years on the job. They reached the ALCS in 2024 but fell in the wild-card series last year. Not even the man Vogt replaced — Terry Francona, the winningest manager in franchise history — did that. Vogt was tested last season when Clase and Ortiz were put on paid leave in July and later indicted by prosecutors for throwing fixed pitches. The Guardians were 54-54 at the end of July but went 34-20 the rest of the way to win the Central. For the second straight season, Vogt was named AL Manager of the Year by the Baseball Writers Association of America. The front office, knowing a good thing when they saw one, had already signed Vogt to a multiyear deal before the start of the 2025 season.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Guardians do a lot of things right for a small-market, low-payroll team. They are convinced that staying with their young position players and not bringing in middle-tier free agents to block their path will result in an effective big-league offense in 2026. However, based on last year's results — 28th in runs, 29th in batting average, 29th in OPS — that also involves a major leap of faith. Players do not progress in a straight line. Some, of course, will, but others will plateau, while others will falter. Every year, the Guardians say their stated goal is to win the World Series. They won't do that unless they add legitimate hitters from outside the organization to go along with their internal talent.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

SIX IS BETTER THAN FIVE When the rosters expanded on Sept. 1, the Guardians decided to go with a six-man rotation by adding Joey Cantillo from Triple-A Columbus. From Sept. 5 through Sept. 24, the rotation allowed two or fewer runs in 19 straight games. Overall, the Guards went 20-7 in September.

TEAM STREAK The Guardians lost 10 straight games from June 26 through July 6. They followed that by winning 23 of their next 32 games, only to lose nine of their next 10 through Aug. 25.

MR. ALMOST Gavin Williams took a no-hitter into the ninth against the Mets on Aug. 6 at Citi Field. He struck out Francisco Lindor to start the ninth, but Juan Soto followed with a home run to ruin what would have been Cleveland's first no-hitter since Len Barker's perfect game on May 15, 1981, against the Toronto Blue Jays.

CLOSE CALL On Sept. 23, David Fry was hit in the face by a 99 mph fastball from Detroit's Tarik Skubal on a squeeze bunt attempt. After the game, a worried Skubal called the Cleveland clubhouse and asked how he could go to Cleveland Clinic to check on Fry. Manager Stephen Vogt, who was on his way to see Fry, gave Skubal a ride. Fry needed surgery but recovered from his injuries.

TAINTED DEBUT Center fielder Chase DeLauter's big-league debut came in Game 2 of the wild-card series against Detroit on Oct. 1. He made franchise history by making his debut in the postseason, but the thrill of the debut did not last long. Gleyber Torres, Detroit's second hitter of the game, sent what appeared to be a routine fly ball to center field. DeLauter, however, dropped it for an error that will have some staying power in Guardians' history.

Schedule

🟥 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	▨ 26 SEA	▨ 27 SEA	▨ 28 SEA
▨ 29 SEA	▨ 30 LAD	▨ 31 LAD	▨ 1 LAD	2	🟥 3 CHC	🟥 4 CHC
🟥 5 CHC	🟥 6 KC	🟥 7 KC	🟥 8 KC	9	▨ 10 ATL	▨ 11 ATL
▨ 12 ATL	▨ 13 STL	▨ 14 STL	▨ 15 STL	🟥 16 BAL	🟥 17 BAL	🟥 18 BAL
🟥 19 BAL	🟥 20 HOU	🟥 21 HOU	🟥 22 HOU	23	▨ 24 TOR	▨ 25 TOR
▨ 26 TOR	🟥 27 TB	🟥 28 TB	🟥 29 TB	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					▨ 1 A's	▨ 2 A's
▨ 3 A's	▨ 4 KC	▨ 5 KC	▨ 6 KC	▨ 7 KC	🟥 8 MIN	🟥 9 MIN
🟥 10 MIN	🟥 11 LAA	🟥 12 LAA	🟥 13 LAA	14	🟥 15 CIN	🟥 16 CIN
🟥 17 CIN	▨ 18 DET	▨ 19 DET	▨ 20 DET	▨ 21 DET	▨ 22 PHI	▨ 23 PHI
▨ 24 PHI	🟥 25 WAS	🟥 26 WAS	🟥 27 WAS	28	🟥 29 BOS	🟥 30 BOS
🟥 31 BOS						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	▨ 2 NYY	▨ 3 NYY	▨ 4 NYY	▨ 5 TEX	▨ 6 TEX
▨ 7 TEX	🟥 8 NYY	🟥 9 NYY	🟥 10 NYY	11	🟥 12 DET	🟥 13 DET
🟥 14 DET	15	▨ 16 MIL	▨ 17 MIL	▨ 18 MIL	▨ 19 HOU	▨ 20 HOU
▨ 21 HOU	▨ 22 CWS	▨ 23 CWS	▨ 24 CWS	25	🟥 26 SEA	🟥 27 SEA
🟥 28 SEA	🟥 29 TEX	🟥 30 TEX				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			🟥 1 TEX	🟥 2 CWS	🟥 3 CWS	🟥 4 CWS
🟥 5 CWS	6	▨ 7 MIN	▨ 8 MIN	▨ 9 MIN	▨ 10 MIA	▨ 11 MIA
▨ 12 MIA	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	🟥 17 PIT	🟥 18 PIT
🟥 19 PIT	🟥 20 MIN	🟥 21 MIN	🟥 22 MIN	🟥 23 MIN	▨ 24 TB	▨ 25 TB
▨ 26 TB	▨ 27 CIN	▨ 28 CIN	▨ 29 CIN	30	🟥 31 ARI	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						🟥 1 ARI
🟥 2 ARI	3	🟥 4 NYM	🟥 5 NYM	🟥 6 NYM	▨ 7 CWS	▨ 8 CWS
▨ 9 CWS	10	▨ 11 DET	▨ 12 DET	▨ 13 DET	🟥 14 SD	🟥 15 SD
🟥 16 SD	17	🟥 18 SF	🟥 19 SF	🟥 20 SF	▨ 21 COL	▨ 22 COL
▨ 23 COL	▨ 24 LAA	▨ 25 LAA	▨ 26 LAA	27	🟥 28 KC	🟥 29 KC
🟥 30 KC	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		🟥 1 TOR	🟥 2 TOR	🟥 3 TOR	🟥 4 DET	🟥 5 DET
🟥 6 DET	▨ 7 BAL	▨ 8 BAL	▨ 9 BAL	10	▨ 11 MIN	▨ 12 MIN
▨ 13 MIN	🟥 14 CWS	🟥 15 CWS	🟥 16 CWS	17	🟥 18 A's	🟥 19 A's
🟥 20 A's	21	▨ 22 BOS	▨ 23 BOS	▨ 24 BOS	▨ 25 KC	▨ 26 KC
▨ 27 KC	28	29	30			

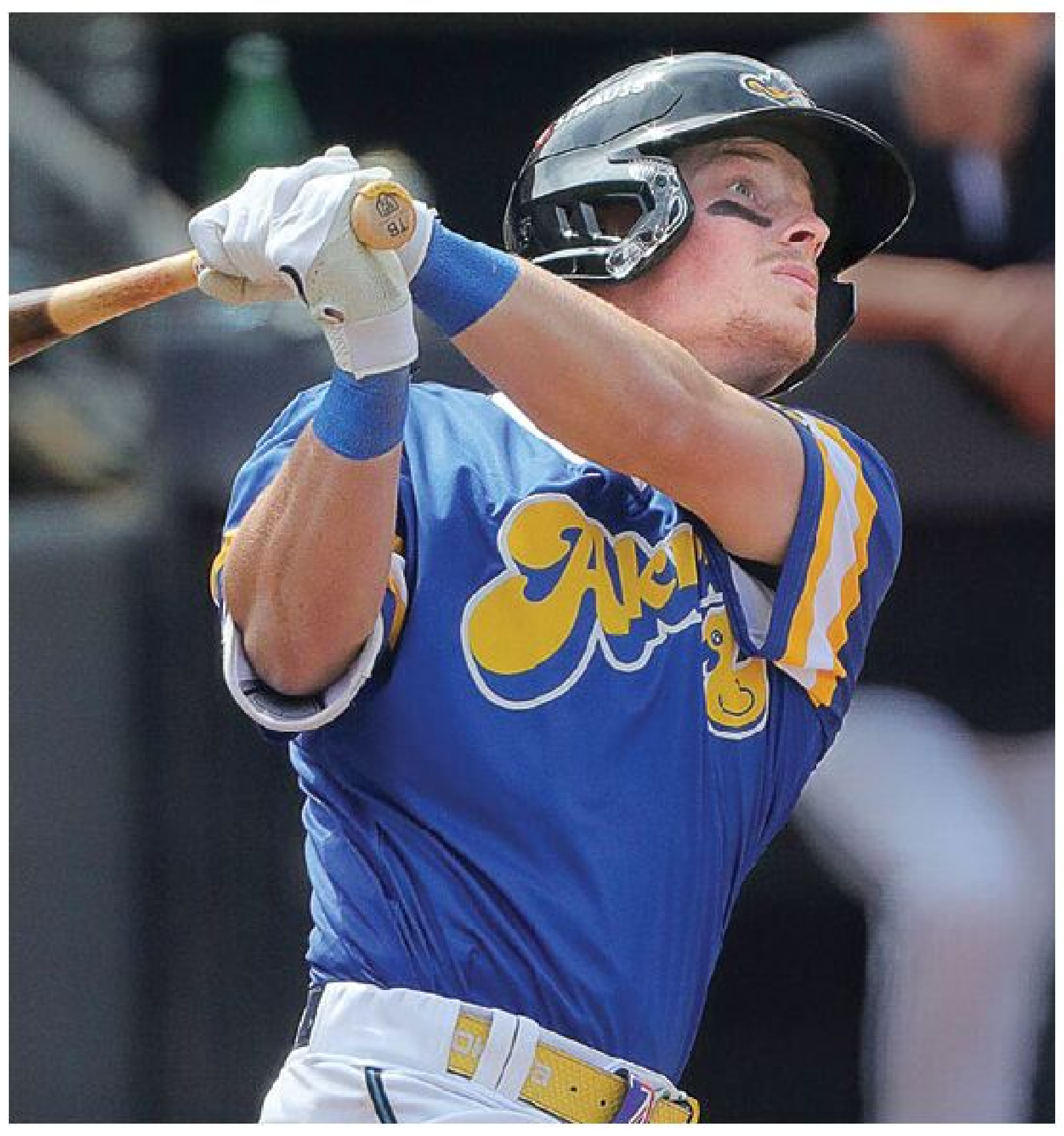
STATISTICIAN

22 Number of defensive runs saved by Steven Kwan, leading all MLB players.

◆

.226 The Guardians' team batting average for 2025, the lowest in team history and lowest ever for a playoff team.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS



PHIL MASTURZO

- **1. Travis Bazzana, 2B (23)** Second baseman of the future but could be tested in the outfield.

2. Chase DeLauter, OF (24) Should be on the Guardians' Opening Day roster if he can avoid injury.

3. Parker Messick, LHP (25) Will compete for rotation spot after impressive big-league debut in 2025.

4. Cooper Ingle, C (24) Have the Guardians finally found a catcher who can hit?

5. Angel Genao, SS (21) Slowed by shoulder injury last season but hit .325 in winter ball.

6. Jaison Chourio, OF (20) Last season shortened by shoulder injury.

7. Ralphy Velazquez, 1B/OF (20) He had 22 home runs with 85 RBIs last year at High-A and Double-A.

8. Juan Brito, 2B (24) A switch-hitter with power whose 2025 season was derailed by injuries.

9. Kahlil Watson, OF (22) Guardians moved him to the outfield full time and are excited about his power.

10. Khal Stephen, RHP (23) Guardians acquired Toronto's second-round pick from 2024 for Shane Bieber.

Guardians Roster

President, Baseball Operations: Chris Antonetti • **Manager:** Stephen Vogt • **Coaches:** Sandy Alomar Jr. (first base and catching), Tony Arnerich (bench), Junior Betances (asst. hitting), Grant Fink (hitting), Brad Goldberg (asst. pitching), Caleb Longshore (bullpen), J.T. Maguire (outfield and baserunning), Rouglas Odor (third base and infield), Dan Puente (asst. hitting), Agustin Rivero, Joe Torres (asst. pitching), Carl Willis (pitching)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
92	Franco Aleman	R-R	6-6	235	6/26/00	Columbus (AAA)	2-5	7.85	37	0	5	36.2	41	24	57
26	Logan Allen	R-L	6-0	190	9/5/98	**CLEVELAND**	**8-11**	**4.25**	**30**	**29**	**0**	**156.2**	**157**	**62**	**122**
	Shawn Armstrong	R-R	6-2	225	9/11/90	**TEXAS**	**4-3**	**2.31**	**71**	**2**	**9**	**74.0**	**40**	**20**	**74**
28	Tanner Bibee	R-R	6-2	205	3/5/99	**CLEVELAND**	**12-11**	**4.24**	**31**	**31**	**0**	**182.1**	**170**	**54**	**162**
	Connor Brogdon	R-R	6-6	205	1/29/95	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**3-2**	**5.55**	**43**	**0**	**0**	**47.0**	**45**	**18**	**49**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	1-2	9.82	17	1	1	22.0	38	11	30
54	Joey Cantillo	L-L	6-4	225	12/18/99	**CLEVELAND**	**5-3**	**3.21**	**34**	**13**	**1**	**95.1**	**78**	**42**	**108**
						Columbus (AAA)	0-1	5.06	6	6	0	21.1	18	8	27
44	Slade Cecconi	R-R	6-4	219	6/24/99	**CLEVELAND**	**7-7**	**4.30**	**23**	**23**	**0**	**132.0**	**125**	**32**	**109**
						Columbus (AAA)	0-2	4.85	3	3	0	13.0	12	2	10
66	Daniel Espino	R-R	6-2	225	1/5/01	Columbus (AAA)	0-1	40.50	1	1	0	0.2	3	0	1
52	Matt Festa	R-R	6-1	195	3/11/93	**CLEVELAND**	**5-4**	**4.12**	**63**	**0**	**0**	**54.2**	**44**	**15**	**56**
						Round Rock (AAA)	2-0	0.00	9	0	1	14.2	10	7	20
33	Hunter Gaddis	R-R	6-6	260	4/9/98	**CLEVELAND**	**2-2**	**3.11**	**73**	**0**	**3**	**66.2**	**58**	**21**	**73**
	Yorman Gómez	R-R	5-11	200	11/10/02	Akron (AA)	4-2	3.15	10	9	0	45.2	38	19	56
						Lake County (A+)	8-0	2.84	17	6	3	76.0	55	29	83
29	Tim Herrin	L-L	6-6	230	10/8/96	**CLEVELAND**	**5-4**	**4.85**	**54**	**0**	**0**	**42.2**	**37**	**30**	**45**
						Columbus (AAA)	0-0	3.38	8	0	1	8.0	10	2	9
	Colin Holderman	R-R	6-6	230	10/8/95	**PITTSBURGH**	**0-2**	**7.01**	**24**	**0**	**1**	**25.2**	**34**	**16**	**18**
						Indianapolis (AAA)	1-1	5.40	17	1	1	18.1	21	7	21
						Bradenton (A)	0-1	9.00	1	0	0	1.0	1	0	3
77	Parker Messick	L-L	6-0	225	10/26/00	**CLEVELAND**	**3-1**	**2.72**	**7**	**7**	**0**	**39.2**	**46**	**6**	**38**
						Columbus (AAA)	5-6	3.47	20	20	0	98.2	78	42	119
65	Doug Nikhazy	L-L	6-0	210	8/11/99	**CLEVELAND**	**0-1**	**13.50**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**4.0**	**5**	**6**	**5**
						Columbus (AAA)	5-7	5.02	21	19	1	86.0	89	43	87
	Peyton Pallette	R-R	6-1	190	5/9/01	Charlotte (AAA)	1-2	4.36	36	0	3	43.1	32	20	54
						Birmingham (AA)	1-1	3.43	16	0	8	21.0	12	8	32
	Austin Peterson	R-R	6-6	234	9/19/99	Columbus (AAA)	4-4	4.27	17	15	0	90.2	94	30	78
						Akron (AA)	4-2	1.47	11	11	0	55.0	36	10	49
62	Erik Sabrowski	R-L	6-4	230	10/31/97	**CLEVELAND**	**0-1**	**1.84**	**33**	**0**	**0**	**29.1**	**14**	**21**	**42**
						Columbus (AAA)	0-0	5.14	6	0	1	7.0	6	5	9
						Akron (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	1.0	0	1	2
						ACL Guardians (R)	0-0	0.00	2	1	0	1.0	0	4	1
36	Cade Smith	R-R	6-5	230	5/9/99	**CLEVELAND**	**8-5**	**2.93**	**76**	**0**	**16**	**73.2**	**55**	**19**	**104**
91	Andrew Walters	R-R	6-4	222	12/8/00	**CLEVELAND**	**0-0**	**13.50**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1.1**	**2**	**0**	**2**
						Columbus (AAA)	0-0	1.50	12	0	0	12.0	5	9	23
32	Gavin Williams	L-R	6-6	250	7/26/99	**CLEVELAND**	**12-5**	**3.06**	**31**	**31**	**0**	**167.2**	**130**	**83**	**173**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
27	Austin Hedges	R-R	6-0	220	8/18/92	**CLEVELAND**	**.161**	**70**	**155**	**13**	**25**	**5**	**10**	**18**	**43**	**1**
23	Bo Naylor	L-R	6-0	205	2/21/00	**CLEVELAND**	**.195**	**123**	**359**	**46**	**70**	**14**	**47**	**45**	**99**	**1**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
13	Gabriel Arias	R-R	6-1	217	2/27/00	**CLEVELAND**	**.220**	**129**	**432**	**44**	**95**	**11**	**54**	**27**	**162**	**8**
						Columbus (AAA)	.308	4	13	1	4	1	1	3	3	0
74	Juan Brito	S-R	6-0	202	9/24/01	Columbus (AAA)	.256	24	82	15	21	3	15	13	21	4
						ACL Guardians (R)	.190	7	21	2	4	1	2	3	8	0
6	David Fry	R-R	6-1	215	11/20/95	**CLEVELAND**	**.171**	**66**	**146**	**16**	**25**	**8**	**23**	**9**	**58**	**1**
						Columbus (AAA)	.167	3	12	1	2	1	3	1	3	0
						Akron (AA)	.111	3	9	0	1	0	2	0	3	0
						ACL Guardians (R)	.000	3	8	1	0	0	0	2	3	0
	Angel Genao	S-R	5-9	150	5/19/04	Akron (AA)	.259	77	309	39	80	2	37	29	54	6
						ACL Guardians (R)	.308	8	26	10	8	3	5	6	4	0
2	C.J. Kayfus	L-L	6-0	192	10/28/01	**CLEVELAND**	**.220**	**44**	**123**	**16**	**27**	**4**	**19**	**11**	**38**	**4**
						Columbus (AAA)	.283	68	251	39	71	13	43	33	79	2
						Akron (AA)	.364	18	66	12	24	1	11	11	14	2
9	Kyle Manzardo	L-R	6-0	205	7/18/00	**CLEVELAND**	**.234**	**142**	**470**	**47**	**110**	**27**	**70**	**48**	**135**	**2**
11	José Ramírez	S-R	5-8	190	9/17/92	**CLEVELAND**	**.283**	**158**	**593**	**103**	**168**	**30**	**85**	**66**	**74**	**44**
4	Brayan Rocchio	S-R	5-9	170	1/13/01	**CLEVELAND**	**.233**	**115**	**344**	**34**	**80**	**5**	**44**	**22**	**77**	**8**
						Columbus (AAA)	.252	41	159	28	40	7	30	23	27	7
10	Daniel Schneemann	L-R	5-11	185	1/23/97	**CLEVELAND**	**.206**	**131**	**379**	**48**	**78**	**12**	**41**	**38**	**117**	**9**

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
24	Chase DeLauter	L-L	6-3	235	10/8/01	Columbus (AAA)	.278	34	126	25	35	5	21	22	23	0
						ACL Guardians (R)	.182	8	22	3	4	2	3	6	5	1
0	Petey Halpin	L-R	5-11	200	5/26/02	**CLEVELAND**	**.333**	**6**	**6**	**5**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**0**
						Columbus (AAA)	.249	126	493	86	123	14	44	51	156	15
22	Nolan Jones	L-R	6-5	195	5/7/98	**CLEVELAND**	**.211**	**136**	**355**	**34**	**75**	**5**	**34**	**39**	**113**	**8**
38	Steven Kwan	L-L	5-8	170	9/5/97	**CLEVELAND**	**.272**	**156**	**625**	**81**	**170**	**11**	**56**	**55**	**60**	**21**
1	Angel Martínez	S-R	5-11	200	1/27/02	**CLEVELAND**	**.224**	**139**	**446**	**56**	**100**	**11**	**45**	**23**	**110**	**8**
						Columbus (AAA)	.344	8	32	7	11	0	8	0	9	1
30	Johnathan Rodríguez	R-R	6-1	224	11/4/99	**CLEVELAND**	**.197**	**31**	**71**	**6**	**14**	**2**	**10**	**6**	**22**	**1**
						Columbus (AAA)	.312	87	324	48	101	16	66	43	86	0
7	George Valera	L-L	5-10	195	11/13/00	**CLEVELAND**	**.220**	**16**	**41**	**7**	**9**	**2**	**5**	**7**	**13**	**0**
						Columbus (AAA)	.255	28	94	11	24	3	10	13	27	0
						ACL Guardians (R)	.421	16	57	10	24	4	14	5	11	0
	Kahlil Watson	L-R	5-9	178	4/16/03	Columbus (AAA)	.255	43	149	23	38	8	25	22	47	10
						Akron (AA)	.247	59	219	30	54	8	36	26	72	7

Detroit TIGERS

2026 PREDICTION
1ST
AL CENTRAL
2025 FINISH: 2ND (87-75)

If you conveniently forget that they blew a 15.5-game division lead and went 7-17 in September, the 2025 Tigers can be deemed a success. They made the playoffs for a second straight year (albeit by backing in), advanced to the American League Division Series and came within a hair of reaching the ALCS. Their October rebound seemed to inform the front office's approach to the offseason, as they faced several major personnel decisions — not least of which was whether to keep ace Tarik Skubal as he heads into his walk year or trade him for a massive haul of prospects. As of the new year, with Skubal still in the fold and shortstop uber-prospect Kevin McGonigle knocking on the door, the Tigers appear to be all-in for 2026.

ROTATION

Skubal, the two-time defending AL Cy Young winner, was always unlikely to sign an extension prior to free agency, and the Tigers made clear that he was available — but only at an exorbitant price. By early January, the Tigers appeared to be prepared to keep him and take one last shot in 2026. While the Tigers could have used another front-line starter behind Skubal, a major signing never materialized, and they will head into 2026 with largely the same group of arms behind Skubal as in 2025, including righthanders Reese Olson, Jack Flaherty and Casey Mize. Of these, Olson has perhaps the highest upside, but he missed the last two months of 2025 with a shoulder strain. The most intriguing new face is righty Drew Anderson, a former big-league journeyman who spent the past four seasons in Japan and Korea. There is also depth behind that group, in the form of Keider Montero, Troy Melton, Ty Madden and Sawyer Gipson-Long. The biggest question is whether the Tigers can expect any contribution in 2026 from Jackson Jobe, the uber-talented former top pitching prospect who was lost to elbow surgery last June and may or may not return this season.

BULLPEN

Closer Will Vest was one of the biggest revelations of the 2025 MLB playoffs, stitching together eight scoreless innings (with nine strikeouts and no walks) across the Tigers' two series. But the Tigers scooped up veteran closer Kenley Jansen, whose 476 career saves rank fourth all-time, on a one-year, $11 million deal (plus a club option for 2027). Although manager A.J. Hinch tends to run his bullpens without hard-and-fast roles, it stands to reason that Vest will at least begin the season as the high-leverage setup man, with Jansen handling the ninth inning. The Tigers also re-signed veteran righthander Kyle Finnegan, who performed spectacularly (3-0, 1.50 ERA) after coming over from the Washington Nationals at the trade deadline, and there will be plenty of 2025 holdovers in this unit, including lefties Tyler Holton and Brant Hurter and righties Brenan Hanifee and Beau Brieske. It's also possible the newly signed Anderson could wind up pitching out of the 'pen. The concern is a lack of K-quality arms: The Tigers' bullpen ranked last in the majors in 2025 in strikeouts per nine innings (7.71).

TARIK SKUBAL

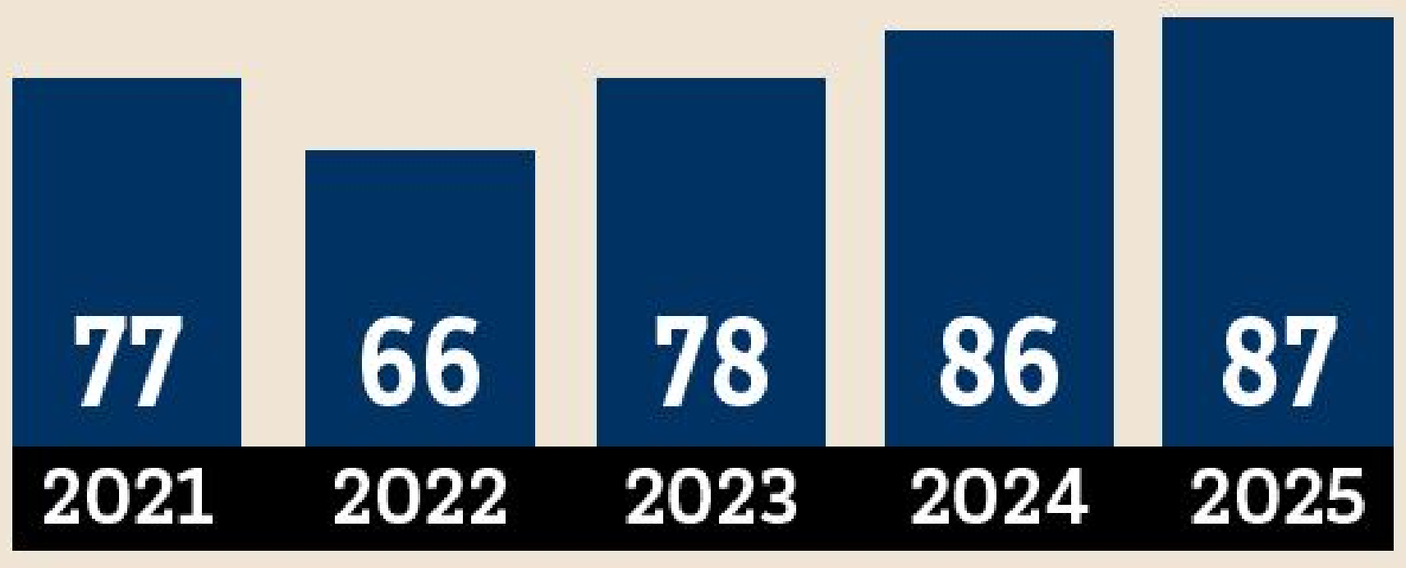
STEVEN BISIG-IMAGN IMAGES

Comerica Park

Opened: 2000 • Capacity: 41,083
Left: 342' Center: 412' Right: 330'
Tickets: (313) 471-7000
mlb.com/TIGERS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Highest team first-pitch strike rate, 2021-25

1. 2024 Mariners	65.5%
2. 2025 Cubs	64.7%
3. 2025 Tigers	**64.7%**
4. 2024 Tigers	**64.6%**
5. 2024 Twins	64.6%

MIDDLE INFIELD

The Tigers will have a huge decision to make this spring with McGonigle, arguably the top position-player prospect in the game. A natural shortstop with additional experience at second and third, McGonigle has raked at every level of the minors and was the MVP of the Arizona Fall League, but under president of baseball operations Scott Harris, the Tigers have been relatively slow to bring top prospects to the majors. And the mildly surprising decision by veteran second baseman Gleyber Torres to accept the Tigers' qualifying offer for 2026 muddies the picture, as the team's infield picture is now crowded, with Torres holding down second, and Javier Báez, Zach McKinstry and Colt Keith all needing playing time on the left side. But talent usually wins out in the end, and the Tigers say they haven't ruled out making room for McGonigle on their Opening Day roster. He seems certain to make his MLB debut in 2026.

CORNERS

Once ranked among the game's top prospects, Spencer Torkelson posted an unsightly -0.1 bWAR across his first three big-league seasons, but he seemed like a different player in the first half of 2025, hitting 21 home runs prior to the All-Star break before cooling off in the second half. Torkelson provides stability at first, but third base might be the same sort of revolving door it was in 2025, when five different players made at least 14 starts there. Although McKinstry led the way with 69 starts at third, the Tigers love moving him around; he saw time at every position except center field and catcher in 2025.

RILEY GREENE

OUTFIELD

All-Star left fielder Riley Greene was the poster child for the Tigers' second-half collapse in 2025. After putting up monster numbers (.284/.335/.544) in the first half, he lost nearly 200 points of OPS in the second half, and struck out at an alarming rate. But he is still just 25, with game-changing power, and the Tigers will be content to plug him into the middle of their lineup every day and hope he develops into a superstar. The Tigers explored outfield upgrades for the other two spots, but barring any late additions, it appears they will stick with 26-year-olds Parker Meadows and Wenceel Pérez as their primary starters in center and right, respectively. Neither has amassed 900 big-league plate appearances to date.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

3B	Colt Keith (L)
2B	Gleyber Torres (R)
DH	Kerry Carpenter (L)
LF	Riley Greene (L)
1B	Spencer Torkelson (R)
C	Dillon Dingler (R)
SS	Zach McKinstry (L)
RF	Wenceel Pérez (S)
CF	Parker Meadows (L)

■ BENCH

INF/OF	Javier Báez (S)
C	Jake Rogers (R)
OF/INF	Matt Vierling (R)
OF	Jahmai Jones (R)

■ ROTATION

LHP	Tarik Skubal
RHP	Jack Flaherty
RHP	Casey Mize
RHP	Reese Olson
RHP	Drew Anderson

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Kenley Jansen (C)
RHP	Will Vest
RHP	Kyle Finnegan
LHP	Tyler Holton
RHP	Brenan Hanifee
LHP	Brant Hurter
LHP	Bailey Horn
RHP	Beau Brieske

LON HORWEDEL-IMAGN IMAGES

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE TIGERS "Tarik Skubal is so good, the only way to really beat him is to make him throw a lot of pitches and get him out of the game, like Seattle did in the ALCS. But with Skubal, Casey Mize, Reese Olson, Jack Flaherty and Troy Melton, they can roll out an average to above-average starter every night. One of the things they lacked last year was power out of the bullpen; they couldn't punch anybody out, and then they put the ball in play. Detroit is really good in the outfield defensively, with Riley Greene and Parker Meadows, and Javy Báez if he's out there. Gleyber Torres has no range at second base, but they needed to bring him back because he takes good at-bats and counteracts some of the all-or-nothing guys like Greene, Báez and Spencer Torkelson. Dillon Dingler earned that Gold Glove last year, and he's one of the better-hitting catchers in baseball. Zach McKinstry is so important to them because he plays all over, but he might have just had a career year. Watch out for Max Clark in the outfield; he's only 21, but he's coming on fast."

CATCHING

The Tigers entered 2025 with Dillon Dingler and Jake Rogers splitting time behind the plate, but an early-season injury to the latter gave Dingler the full-time job — and he seized the opportunity. In his first full season in the majors, he posted the fourth-highest fWAR of any backstop in the game in 2025 and won a Gold Glove. Having cycled through seven different Opening Day catchers in the seven seasons between 2018 and 2024, the Tigers finally look like they have a long-term solution at a critically important position.

DH/BENCH

The days of Victor Martinez or Miguel Cabrera lording over the full-time DH job in Detroit are long gone, and the 2026 Tigers are likely to use the spot much as they did in 2025, when 10 different players got starts at DH, with Keith (43) and Kerry Carpenter (37) accounting for nearly half of them. The Tigers should also have a functional bench this season, with Báez shifting into an infield-outfield utility role and with versatile Matt Vierling still around.

MANAGEMENT

The Tigers signed Hinch to a contract extension in October — not long after he led the Tigers to the ALDS for the second straight season — and while the details were unreleased, it was believed that the deal was for at least three more years. It was the second time Harris has extended Hinch's deal, reflecting the organization's satisfaction with the job he has done through his first five seasons in Detroit.

FINAL ANALYSIS

In holding on to Skubal and making minimal changes throughout their roster, the Tigers signaled that they believed in the April-through-August version of the 2025 team and not the collapsing September version. In a perfect world, Skubal scripts another Cy Young-caliber season, McGonigle arrives and fulfills his vast promise and the Tigers make a deep October run. The pieces are here to do exactly that, but as is the case with most would-be contenders, much has to go right.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

MONEY PIT The story of Javier Báez's career can be told in just two numbers: His .783 OPS prior to reaching free agency and his .626 mark since signing a six-year, $140 million free-agent deal with the Tigers prior to the 2022 season. Manager A.J. Hinch found a way for Báez to be useful in 2025, moving him around the field (including 43 starts in CF) and squeezing 12 homers out of his bat. But there's no getting around the fact that Báez's contract has been an albatross around the franchise's collective neck, and there's little reason to expect that to change until it expires in 2027.

QUICK RECOVERY Former top pitching prospect Jackson Jobe lasted just 10 big-league starts in 2025 before blowing out his elbow in May, resulting in UCL surgery that was expected to keep him out until 2027. But Jobe's recovery has gone better than expected, and the Tigers are now saying they expect him to be back before the end of the 2026 regular season — giving them a potentially massive boost down the stretch.

CLOSING TIME Just because newly signed free-agent reliever Kenley Jansen is the game's most prolific active closer doesn't mean he will necessarily hold that job with the Tigers. For one thing, despite pretty stats in 2025 (29 saves, 2.59 ERA), his underlying metrics were concerning: His strikeout rate of 24.4% was a career low, and his average exit velocity allowed of 91.5 mph was a career high. Also, Hinch has mostly stayed away from traditional bullpen roles in his time with the Tigers.

Schedule

🟧 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	▨ 26 SD	▨ 27 SD	▨ 28 SD
29	▨ 30 ARI	▨ 31 ARI	▨ 1 ARI	2	🟧 3 STL	🟧 4 STL
🟧 5 STL	▨ 6 MIN	▨ 7 MIN	▨ 8 MIN	▨ 9 MIN	🟧 10 MIA	🟧 11 MIA
🟧 12 MIA	13	🟧 14 KC	🟧 15 KC	🟧 16 KC	▨ 17 BOS	▨ 18 BOS
▨ 19 BOS	▨ 20 BOS	🟧 21 MIL	🟧 22 MIL	🟧 23 MIL	▨ 24 CIN	▨ 25 CIN
▨ 26 CIN	27	▨ 28 ATL	▨ 29 ATL	▨ 30 ATL		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					🟧 1 TEX	🟧 2 TEX
🟧 3 TEX	🟧 4 BOS	🟧 5 BOS	🟧 6 BOS	7	▨ 8 KC	▨ 9 KC
▨ 10 KC	11	▨ 12 NYM	▨ 13 NYM	▨ 14 NYM	🟧 15 TOR	🟧 16 TOR
🟧 17 TOR	🟧 18 CLE	🟧 19 CLE	🟧 20 CLE	🟧 21 CLE	▨ 22 BAL	▨ 23 BAL
▨ 24 BAL	25	🟧 26 LAA	🟧 27 LAA	🟧 28 LAA	▨ 29 CWS	▨ 30 CWS
▨ 31 CWS						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	▨ 1 TB	▨ 2 TB	▨ 3 TB	4	🟧 5 SEA	🟧 6 SEA
🟧 7 SEA	8	🟧 9 MIN	🟧 10 MIN	🟧 11 MIN	▨ 12 CLE	▨ 13 CLE
▨ 14 CLE	▨ 15 HOU	▨ 16 HOU	▨ 17 HOU	18	🟧 19 CWS	🟧 20 CWS
🟧 21 CWS	🟧 22 NYY	🟧 23 NYY	🟧 24 NYY	🟧 25 HOU	🟧 26 HOU	🟧 27 HOU
🟧 28 HOU	▨ 29 NYY	▨ 30 NYY				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			▨ 1 NYY	▨ 2 TEX	3	▨ 4 TEX
▨ 5 TEX	6	🟧 7 A's	🟧 8 A's	🟧 9 A's	🟧 10 PHI	🟧 11 PHI
🟧 12 PHI	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	▨ 17 LAA	▨ 18 LAA
▨ 19 LAA	▨ 20 CHC	▨ 21 CHC	▨ 22 CHC	🟧 23 KC	🟧 24 KC	🟧 25 KC
🟧 26 KC	🟧 27 BAL	🟧 28 BAL	🟧 29 BAL	30	▨ 31 A's	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						▨ 1 A's
▨ 2 A's	3	▨ 4 SEA	▨ 5 SEA	▨ 6 SEA	▨ 7 SF	▨ 8 SF
▨ 9 SF	10	🟧 11 CLE	🟧 12 CLE	🟧 13 CLE	🟧 14 CWS	🟧 15 CWS
🟧 16 CWS	▨ 17 PIT	▨ 18 PIT	▨ 19 PIT	20	▨ 21 KC	▨ 22 KC
▨ 23 KC	🟧 24 TB	🟧 25 TB	🟧 26 TB	27	🟧 28 LAD	🟧 29 LAD
🟧 30 LAD	▨ 31 MIN					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		▨ 1 MIN	▨ 2 MIN	3	▨ 4 CLE	▨ 5 CLE
▨ 6 CLE	🟧 7 MIN	🟧 8 MIN	🟧 9 MIN	10	🟧 11 COL	🟧 12 COL
🟧 13 COL	▨ 14 TOR	▨ 15 TOR	▨ 16 TOR	▨ 17 CWS	▨ 18 CWS	▨ 19 CWS
▨ 20 CWS	🟧 21 WAS	🟧 22 WAS	🟧 23 WAS	24	🟧 25 PIT	🟧 26 PIT
🟧 27 PIT	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

476 Career saves for Kenley Jansen, fourth all-time behind only Mariano Rivera, Trevor Hoffman and Lee Smith.

◆

0 Number of 30-save seasons by Tigers relievers across the past three seasons.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

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1. Kevin McGonigle, SS (21) He's hit .300 in each minor league season and earned MVP honors in the 2025 AFL.

2. Max Clark, CF (21) He's a true center fielder with plus speed and elite plate discipline and strike-zone recognition.

3. Bryce Rainer, SS (20) He was drafted as a potential two-way player, but his elite bat speed will keep him a hitter.

4. Josue Briceño, C (21) He was the AFL's first Triple Crown winner in 2024. May eventually land as a 1B if not DH.

5. Hao-Yu Lee, 2B/3B (23) Holds surprising power in a 5-foot-9 frame. Could make the majors this season.

6. Jordan Yost, SS (19) His left-handed bat and elite contact skills suggest he'll move fast.

7. Cris Rodriguez, OF (18) He's big (6-foot-3, 203) and powerful, with the arm to stick in RF.

8. Max Anderson, 2B/3B (24) A second-rounder out of Nebraska in the 2023 draft, he has a better bat than Lee but a lesser glove.

9. Franyerber Montilla, SS (20) Had a resurgent 2025 at the plate and still has the best arm of any infielder in the system.

10. Owen Hall, RHP (20) His 6-foot-3 frame and a fastball that tops out at 98 make him intriguing.

Tigers Roster

President, Baseball Operations: Scott Harris • **Manager:** A.J. Hinch • **Coaches:** Cody Asche (asst. hitting), Billy Boyer (quality control), Michael Brdar (hitting), Joey Cora (third base), Chris Fetter (pitching), George Lombard (bench), Robin Lund (asst. pitching), Juan Nieves (asst. pitching), Anthony Sanders (first base), Ryan Sienko (catching), Aaron Spano (performance), Lance Zawadzki (asst. hitting)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
38	Drew Anderson	R-R	6-3	205	3/22/94	SSG Landers (Korea)	12-7	2.25	30	30	0	171.2	121	51	245
4	Beau Brieske	R-R	6-3	200	4/4/98	**DETROIT**	1-3	6.55	22	1	1	22.0	24	12	16
						Toledo (AAA)	0-1	9.90	9	0	0	10.0	13	9	8
						West Michigan (A+)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.0	0	0	2
67	Kyle Finnegan	R-R	6-2	198	9/4/91	**DETROIT**	3-0	1.50	16	0	4	18.0	9	4	23
						Toledo (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	0.2	0	1	1
						WASHINGTON	1-4	4.38	40	0	20	39.0	36	14	32
9	Jack Flaherty	R-R	6-4	225	10/15/95	**DETROIT**	8-15	4.64	31	31	0	161.0	147	59	188
66	Sawyer Gipson-Long	R-R	6-4	225	12/12/97	**DETROIT**	0-2	7.18	8	3	0	31.1	34	6	26
						Toledo (AAA)	0-1	4.13	9	8	0	32.2	26	8	35
						West Michigan (A+)	0-0	1.59	2	2	0	5.2	5	1	5
						Lakeland (A)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.1	3	0	2
75	Brenan Hanifee	R-R	6-5	215	5/29/98	**DETROIT**	3-3	3.00	54	0	0	60.0	65	14	40
						Toledo (AAA)	0-0	1.50	6	1	0	6.0	4	1	7
87	Tyler Holton	L-L	6-2	200	6/13/96	**DETROIT**	6-5	3.66	70	6	0	78.2	65	17	64
57	Bailey Horn	L-L	6-2	210	1/15/98	**DETROIT**	0-1	1.59	10	0	0	11.1	11	7	10
						Toledo (AAA)	4-2	3.29	30	4	0	41.0	40	19	51
						Lakeland (A)	0-0	16.20	2	2	0	1.2	3	1	2
48	Brant Hurter	L-L	6-6	250	9/6/98	**DETROIT**	4-3	2.43	43	4	2	63.0	57	27	68
						Toledo (AAA)	0-1	9.82	3	0	0	3.2	5	0	2
74	Kenley Jansen	S-R	6-5	265	9/30/87	**LOS ANGELES AL**	5-4	2.59	62	0	29	59.0	37	19	57
21	Jackson Jobe	R-R	6-2	190	7/30/02	**DETROIT**	4-1	4.22	10	10	0	49.0	46	27	39
36	Ty Madden	R-R	6-3	215	2/21/00	Injured — Missed Season									
52	Troy Melton	R-R	6-4	210	12/3/00	**DETROIT**	3-2	2.76	16	4	0	45.2	31	15	36
						Toledo (AAA)	0-2	2.72	8	6	0	36.1	33	9	56
						Erie (AA)	2-1	3.23	10	10	0	39.0	40	11	45
60	Jake Miller	L-L	6-2	185	6/27/01	Erie (AA)	0-0	2.12	4	4	0	17.0	14	4	16
						Lakeland (A)	0-0	0.00	2	2	0	3.0	6	0	5
12	Casey Mize	R-R	6-3	212	5/1/97	**DETROIT**	14-6	3.87	28	28	0	149.0	153	36	139
54	Keider Montero	R-R	6-1	145	7/6/00	**DETROIT**	5-3	4.37	20	12	0	90.2	95	31	72
						Toledo (AAA)	4-4	5.91	10	8	0	42.2	42	15	43
45	Reese Olson	R-R	6-1	160	7/31/99	**DETROIT**	4-4	3.15	13	13	0	68.2	58	25	65
						Toledo (AAA)	0-1	3.48	3	3	0	10.1	8	2	14
29	Tarik Skubal	R-L	6-3	240	11/20/96	**DETROIT**	13-6	2.21	31	31	0	195.1	141	33	241
58	Dylan Smith	R-R	6-2	180	5/28/00	**DETROIT**	1-0	1.38	7	0	0	13.0	6	5	4
						Toledo (AAA)	1-0	3.65	12	0	1	12.1	8	7	22
						Erie (AA)	1-1	1.80	12	0	2	20.0	9	7	27
						West Michigan (A+)	2-0	1.42	5	0	0	6.1	5	2	7
						Lakeland (A)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.0	0	1	1
51	Drew Sommers	L-L	6-3	250	8/14/00	**DETROIT**	0-1	18.00	4	0	0	3.0	7	3	3
						Toledo (AAA)	2-1	3.92	33	1	3	39.0	31	19	48
						Erie (AA)	2-0	1.48	15	0	1	24.1	16	2	22
19	Will Vest	R-R	6-0	180	6/6/95	**DETROIT**	6-5	3.01	64	0	23	68.2	61	22	75

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
13	Dillon Dingler	R-R	6-1	210	9/17/98	**DETROIT**	.278	126	435	54	121	13	57	23	110	0
49	Thayron Liranzo	S-R	6-2	195	7/5/03	Erie (AA)	.206	88	339	49	70	11	45	47	125	0
34	Jake Rogers	R-R	6-0	201	4/18/95	**DETROIT**	.187	49	123	14	23	3	19	15	39	0
						Toledo (AAA)	.333	4	15	5	5	0	0	3	3	0
32	Eduardo Valencia	R-R	6-2	180	1/25/00	Toledo (AAA)	.319	50	185	35	59	13	55	27	41	0
						Erie (AA)	.304	53	194	29	59	11	40	16	45	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
17	Jace Jung	L-R	6-0	205	10/4/00	**DETROIT**	.106	21	47	8	5	0	3	7	16	0
						Toledo (AAA)	.252	110	412	69	104	17	74	78	125	4
33	Colt Keith	L-R	6-2	211	8/14/01	**DETROIT**	.256	137	414	65	106	13	45	48	102	1
50	Hao-Yu Lee	R-R	5-9	190	2/3/03	Toledo (AAA)	.243	126	497	81	121	14	61	65	121	22
39	Zach McKinstry	L-R	6-0	180	4/29/95	**DETROIT**	.259	144	452	68	117	12	49	46	111	19
27	Trey Sweeney	L-R	6-3	212	4/24/00	**DETROIT**	.196	118	296	36	58	6	32	26	92	3
						Toledo (AAA)	.326	12	43	9	14	2	6	7	11	4
20	Spencer Torkelson	R-R	6-1	220	8/26/99	**DETROIT**	.240	155	563	82	135	31	78	72	169	2
25	Gleyber Torres	R-R	5-11	205	12/13/96	**DETROIT**	.256	145	532	79	136	16	74	85	101	4

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
28	Javier Báez	R-R	5-11	190	12/1/92	**DETROIT**	.257	126	417	55	107	12	57	10	109	5
30	Kerry Carpenter	L-R	6-1	220	9/2/97	**DETROIT**	.252	130	433	66	109	26	62	18	106	1
						Toledo (AAA)	.133	4	15	1	2	1	2	1	4	0
40	Trei Cruz	S-R	6-1	204	7/5/98	Toledo (AAA)	.284	58	190	39	54	6	31	48	55	8
						Erie (AA)	.275	69	262	56	72	7	35	54	66	9
31	Riley Greene	L-L	6-2	200	9/28/00	**DETROIT**	.258	157	600	84	155	36	111	46	201	2
18	Jahmai Jones	R-R	5-10	210	8/4/97	**DETROIT**	.287	72	129	21	37	7	23	18	32	2
						Toledo (AAA)	.276	52	170	33	47	6	29	24	46	8
44	Justyn-Henry Malloy	R-R	6-1	212	2/19/00	**DETROIT**	.221	52	104	15	23	1	17	20	32	0
						Toledo (AAA)	.322	72	261	49	84	9	53	57	67	6
22	Parker Meadows	L-R	6-5	205	11/2/99	**DETROIT**	.215	58	191	22	41	4	16	21	56	4
						Toledo (AAA)	.267	13	45	12	12	1	6	10	18	1
						Lakeland (A)	.200	2	5	1	1	0	1	1	2	0
46	Wenceel Pérez	S-R	6-0	203	10/30/99	**DETROIT**	.244	100	344	47	84	13	43	31	87	8
						Toledo (AAA)	.111	2	9	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
						West Michigan (A+)	.500	2	4	1	2	0	0	0	1	0
						Lakeland (A)	.200	2	5	2	1	1	3	1	1	1
8	Matt Vierling	R-R	6-2	205	9/16/96	**DETROIT**	.239	31	88	6	21	1	11	7	24	2
						Toledo (AAA)	.200	17	60	9	12	2	6	8	23	1
						Lakeland (A)	.167	2	6	0	1	0	1	2	2	0

Kansas City ROYALS

2026 PREDICTION
2ND
AL CENTRAL
2025 FINISH: 3RD (82-80)

After manager Matt Quatraro's club reached the 2024 postseason behind Bobby Witt Jr.'s breakout campaign and a stout rotation, expectations weighed heavier in Kansas City last season, but the offense never got on track, and injuries dogged the rotation.

The bones of a playoff contender remain, and the Royals expect to challenge for the AL Central crown behind Witt — if ace lefthander Cole Ragans and righthander Seth Lugo can stay healthy atop the rotation. The bulk of KC's improvement at the plate must come internally, from Jac Caglianone and the addition of Carter Jensen to the big-league lineup, but general manager J.J. Picollo also tinkered at the margins in hopes of another Blue October.

ROTATION

The Royals' rotation (3.80) and bullpen (3.63) both ranked seventh overall, but there's room to improve if Lugo and Ragans are healthy. Lugo, the Cy Young runner-up in 2024, finished 8-7 with a 4.15 ERA in 26 starts, missing time with finger inflammation and a lower-back strain, while Ragans (3-3, 4.67) made only 13 starts after battling groin and rotator cuff strains. Kansas City has a potentially dazzling rotation — rounded out by righthander Michael Wacha (10-13, 3.86) and young southpaws Kris Bubic (8-7, 2.55) and Noah Cameron (9-7, 2.99) — if healthy. If Bubic, who was shut down in July (rotator cuff strain), lands in the bullpen, a pair of righthanders acquired in the Freddy Fermin trade with the San Diego Padres last summer — Stephen Kolek, 28, who went 1-2 with a 1.91 ERA in five starts after joining the Royals, and Ryan Bergert, who went 1-2 with a 4.43 ERA in eight starts — would compete for the fifth spot with righthander Luinder Avila, who posted a 1.29 ERA in 14 innings late last season.

BULLPEN

Collectively, Kansas City's bullpen was more effective than overpowering — finishing second-to-last in K/9 (7.76) but fourth in BB/9 (3.15) last season — but it worked. Carlos Estévez (4-5, 2.45), who notched a major-league-best 42 saves, and the club's top set-up man, Lucas Erceg (8-4, 2.64), don't let many late leads slip away. After trading rubber-armed Angel Zerpa to Milwaukee, the Royals flipped righthander Jonathan Bowlan to the Philadelphia Phillies for lefthander Matt Strahm (2-3, 2.74), a 2024 All-Star whose 10.1 K/9 rate would have been the best mark among qualified relievers in Kansas City's bullpen last season. The Royals posted a sub-4.00 ERA in every inning except the fifth and sixth innings, so beefing up the middle-relief corps was a priority. The Royals acquired veteran Nick Mears (5-3, 3.49 ERA) in the Zerpa deal, which also netted outfielder Isaac Collins. Mears bounced back from a subpar 2024 campaign to post a 119 ERA+ last season with the Brewers. The club also took a flyer on veteran Alex Lange, who emerged as Detroit's closer in 2023 but was limited the past two seasons after lat surgery. Lefthander Daniel Lynch IV (6-2, 3.06) has thrived in a long-relief role the past two seasons, and fellow lefty Bailey Falter, whom Kansas

BOBBY WITT JR.

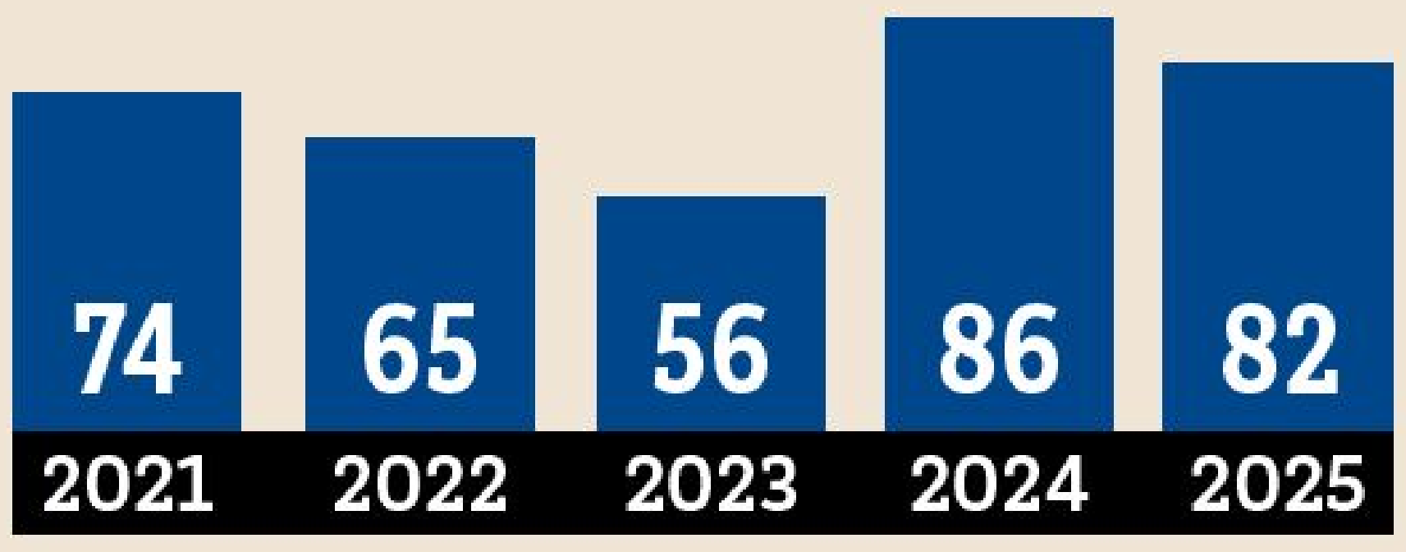
PETER AIKEN-IMAGN IMAGES

Kauffman Stadium

Opened: 1973 • Capacity: 37,903
Left: 330′ Center: 410′ Right: 330′
Tickets: 800-676-9257
mlb.om/ROYALS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Highest percentage of soft contact allowed among pitchers with at least 100 innings pitched, 2025

1. Kris Bubic, Royals	**22.3%**
2. Max Fried, Yankees	21.4%
3. Kyle Hendricks, Angels	21.2%
4. Noah Cameron, Royals	**20.7%**
5. Tarik Skubal, Tigers	20.3%

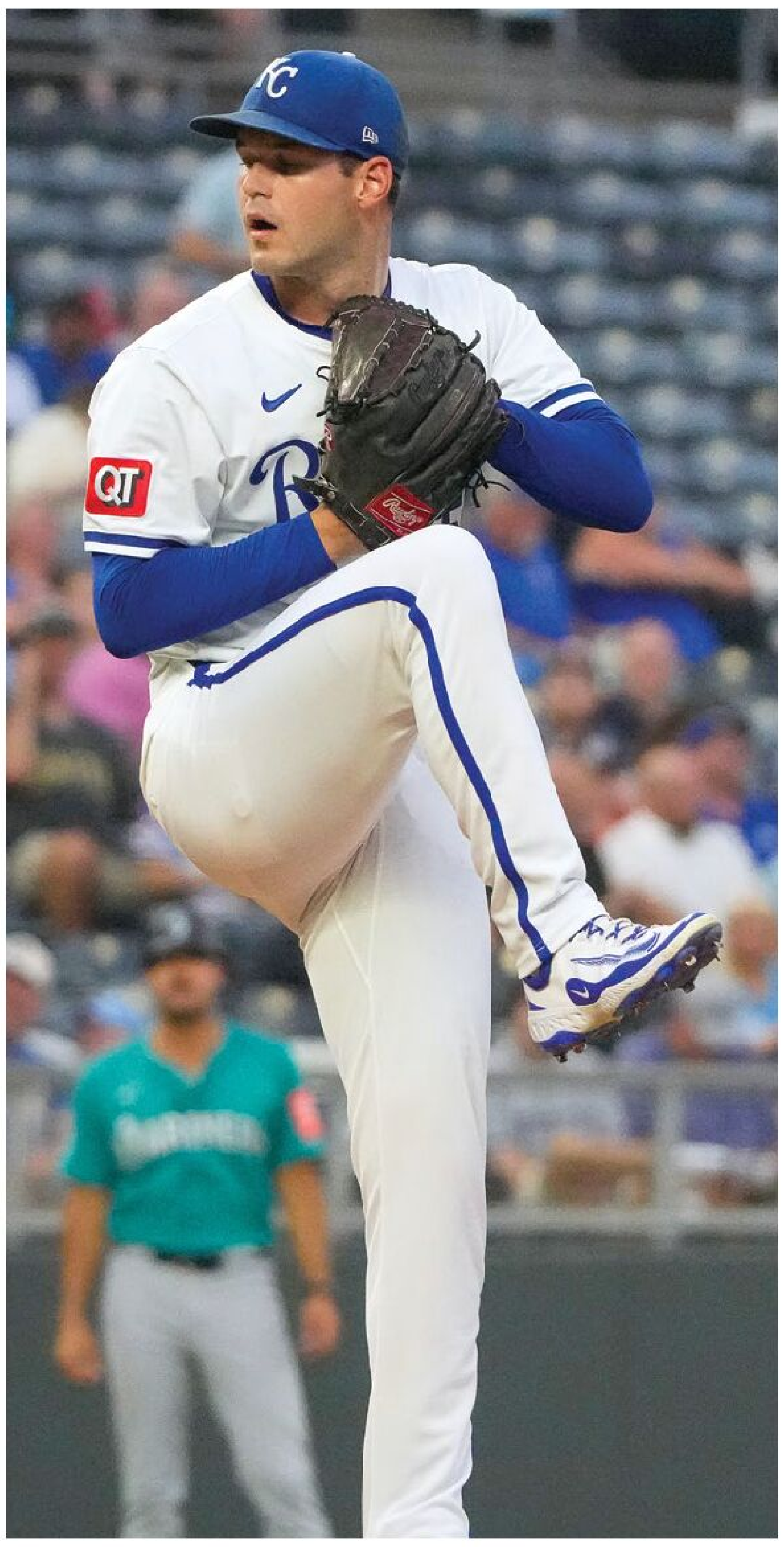
City acquired from the Pittsburgh Pirates at last year's trade deadline, is out of options, so expect both to make the Opening Day roster. With superior K/9 and BB/9 rates, John Schreiber (3-3, 3.80) likely gets the nod over Steven Cruz (3-1, 3.74 ERA) for the final bullpen spot.

MIDDLE INFIELD

Witt, a five-tool franchise cornerstone, will be only 25 on Opening Day. He has finished seventh or better in AL MVP voting each of the past three years, including a runner-up finish in 2024 and fourth-place finish in 2025. Last season, he slashed .295/.351/.501 with a 136 OPS+ and led the majors in doubles (47) and, for the second straight season, hits (184). He's a star and deserves the postseason stage. Double-play partner Jonathan India had a disappointing debut season with the Royals. Acquired via trade to address the club's leadoff void, India produced the worst season of his career with a .233/.323/.346 slash line and 89 OPS+, but that was more productive than Michael Massey, who slashed .244/.268/.313 with a 63 OPS+. Massey is marginally better defensively, but Kansas City hopes India will regress toward the mean in 2026 and improve his production.

CORNERS

The Royals are set with budding stars yet to reach their peak at the corner infield spots. Third baseman Maikel Garcia, 26, who received a five-year contract extension through 2030 in the offseason, enjoyed a breakout 2025, slashing .286/.351/.449 with 60 extra-base hits, an All-Star appearance, a Gold Glove and even some MVP votes. Meanwhile, first baseman Vinnie Pasquantino, 28, stayed healthy and mashed last season with career highs in runs (72), hits (164), doubles (33), home runs (32), RBIs (113) and slugging (.475).


COLE RAGANS

DENNY MEDLEY-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

The 2025 Royals outfield produced the fewest hits (366), runs (182) and RBIs (139) along with the lowest on-base percentage (.285) and wRC+ (73) in baseball. That has to change. Collins, who finished fourth in NL Rookie of the Year voting last season with the Milwaukee Brewers, is a clear upgrade in left field. That position slashed .224/.291/.348 collectively for the Royals last season, while Collins slashed .263/.368/.411. He'll be asked to set the table in front of Witt. Defensively, Kyle Isbel is a top-five center fielder, which Kansas City covets in

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

LF	Isaac Collins (S)
SS	Bobby Witt Jr. (R)
1B	Vinnie Pasquantino (L)
3B	Maikel Garcia (R)
RF	Jac Caglianone (L)
C	Salvador Perez (R)
DH	Carter Jensen (L)
2B	Jonathan India (R)
CF	Kyle Isbel (L)

■ BENCH

UTIL	Nick Loftin (R)
2B	Michael Massey (L)
OF	Lane Thomas (R)
OF	Kameron Misner (L)

■ ROTATION

LHP	Cole Ragans
RHP	Seth Lugo
LHP	Kris Bubic
RHP	Michael Wacha
LHP	Noah Cameron

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Carlos Estévez (C)
RHP	Lucas Erceg
LHP	Matt Strahm
LHP	Bailey Falter
RHP	Alex Lange
LHP	Daniel Lynch IV
RHP	Nick Mears
RHP	John Schreiber

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE ROYALS "They had some pitching injuries, and their lineup got really short once you got past Bobby Witt Jr., Salvy Perez and Vinnie Pasquantino. Luckily they found something in Maikel Garcia — he had a great year, and I didn't see that coming. Good for them to lock him up, too — the left side of their infield should be phenomenal for years. They need to get more from Jonathan India; that's a slow bat now, and he's slow-moving on the infield. They've needed more offense from the outfield for years. Lane Thomas and Isaac Collins should help them upgrade there, at least a little, and Jac Caglianone will rake someday; they rushed him last year, but he was a beast in the minors. I think they're going to be better — closer to what they were in 2024 — as long as the pitching is healthy. When you think about it, they're solid up and down: Michael Wacha, Seth Lugo, Cole Ragans, Kris Bubic, Noah Cameron. That'll work, especially in the AL Central, and their bullpen is nails with Carlos Estévez, Lucas Erceg, Matt Strahm and Daniel Lynch IV, plus Nick Mears, who was a good middle guy for Milwaukee last year. I hated seeing them lose Angel Zerpa in that trade, but Mears and Collins was a strong return for him."

cavernous Kauffman Stadium, and he's an above-average No. 9 hitter. Right field is Caglianone's for the taking, but the Royals can't afford another prolonged slump after he slashed .157/.237/.295 in 62 big-league games.

CATCHING

Age is catching up with Salvador Perez, 35, but he did smack a career-high 35 doubles with 30 home runs and 100 RBIs last season, so the bat remains as potent as it's ever been. He and Jensen — a homegrown 2021 third-round draft pick from a Kansas City high school who shined with a .300/.391/.550 slash line in a 20-game cameo as a September call-up — will split time at catcher. Both are serviceable receivers, and Jensen has 20-home run potential.

DH/BENCH

Perez and Jensen will rotate through at DH when not catching. That may prompt the Royals to keep a third catcher, but it's not necessary. Massey and Nick Loftin — who can play first, second, third or left field — return to similar roles with Kameron Misner and Lane Thomas added in the outfield. Misner, acquired via offseason trade with Tampa Bay, showed an elite BB% in the minors, while Thomas hopes to resurrect his career in Kansas City.

MANAGEMENT

Quatraro brings a steady hand to the Royals clubhouse, but the hitting staff needed a shakeup. Director of hitting Alec Zumwalt returns, but Kansas City poached Connor Dawson, who brings a data-driven/analytical approach, from Milwaukee and added Marcus Thames, who spent the past two seasons with the White Sox after previously coaching for the Yankees, Marlins and Angels.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Royals have the pieces to contend, and Picollo has shown the willingness to be aggressive. Witt is the best player in the AL Central and has a quality core around him. If Collins solves the leadoff conundrum while Jensen and Caglianone emerge as productive bats, the Royals could be surprise World Series contenders.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

ROYAL FOR LIFE Kansas City signed Salvador Perez to a two-year, $25-million contract extension after last season, which will take him through his age-37 season. Perez finished last season with 35 doubles, 30 home runs and 100 RBIs, so he's still a potent power bat in the Royals' lineup. He reached the 300-home run plateau last season and needs 15 home runs in 2026 to pass George Brett for the all-time franchise lead (317).

THE CARD LIFE Newly acquired left-handed pitcher Matt Strahm, a 21st-round pick by the Royals from Neosho County (Kansas) Community College in 2012, is a massive baseball-card buff. He is rumored to own more than a million cards, which he keeps in the spare bedroom of his house, and he famously loves to collect rookie cards from opposing players who homer off him (many of them are signed). Strahm, a North Dakota native, even hosts a TV show about the hobby called "The Card Life."

HOMEGROWN HITTING COACH New Royals hitting coach Connor Dawson, 32, wasn't a hot-shot prospect at Olathe North in suburban Kansas City. After a couple of seasons at Neosho County (Kansas) Community College, he gave up his playing career — and college — to pursue a career in coaching, starting in the high school and juco ranks before the Seattle Mariners hired him as a minor-league hitting instructor in 2019. Known for an extremely analytical approach, Dawson joined Milwaukee's big-league staff before the 2022 season and helped turn the Brewers into one MLB's most productive offenses. Now, he gets to try and do it for his hometown team.

Schedule

■ HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26	27 ▨ ATL	28 ▨ ATL
29 ▨ ATL	30 ■ MIN	31	1 ■ MIN	2 ■ MIN	3 ■ MIL	4 ■ MIL
5 ■ MIL	6 ▨ CLE	7 ▨ CLE	8 ▨ CLE	9 ■ CWS	10 ■ CWS	11 ■ CWS
12 ■ CWS	13	14 ▨ DET	15 ▨ DET	16 ▨ DET	17 ▨ NYY	18 ▨ NYY
19 ▨ NYY	20 ■ BAL	21 ■ BAL	22 ■ BAL	23	24 ■ LAA	25 ■ LAA
26 ■ LAA	27	28 ▨ A’s	29 ▨ A’s	30 ▨ A’s		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ▨ SEA	2 ▨ SEA
3 ▨ SEA	4 ■ CLE	5 ■ CLE	6 ■ CLE	7 ■ CLE	8 ■ DET	9 ■ DET
10 ■ DET	11	12 ▨ CWS	13 ▨ CWS	14 ▨ CWS	15 ▨ STL	16 ▨ STL
17 ▨ STL	18 ■ BOS	19 ■ BOS	20 ■ BOS	21	22 ■ SEA	23 ■ SEA
24 ■ SEA	25 ■ NYY	26 ■ NYY	27 ■ NYY	28	29 ▨ TEX	30 ▨ TEX
31 ▨ TEX						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 ▨ CIN	2 ▨ CIN	3 ▨ CIN	4 ▨ MIN	5 ▨ MIN	6 ▨ MIN
7 ▨ MIN	8	9 ■ TEX	10 ■ TEX	11 ■ TEX	12 ■ HOU	13 ■ HOU
14 ■ HOU	15 ▨ WAS	16 ▨ WAS	17 ▨ WAS	18 ■ STL	19 ■ STL	20
21 ■ STL	22 ▨ TB	23 ▨ TB	24 ▨ TB	25 ▨ TB	26 ▨ CWS	27 ▨ CWS
28 ▨ CWS	29	30 ■ TB				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 ■ TB	2 ■ TB	3	4 ■ PHI
5 ■ PHI	6 ■ PHI	7 ▨ NYM	8 ▨ NYM	9 ▨ NYM	10 ▨ BAL	11 ▨ BAL
12 ▨ BAL	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 ■ SD	18 ■ SD
19 ■ SD	20 ■ SF	21 ■ SF	22 ■ SF	23 ▨ DET	24 ▨ DET	25 ▨ DET
26 ▨ DET	27	28 ▨ MIN	29 ▨ MIN	30 ▨ MIN	31 ▨ COL	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 ▨ COL
2 ▨ COL	3	4 ■ MIN	5 ■ MIN	6 ■ MIN	7 ■ CHC	8 ■ CHC
9 ■ CHC	10 ▨ LAD	11 ▨ LAD	12 ▨ LAD	13	14 ▨ LAA	15 ▨ LAA
16 ▨ LAA	17 ■ A’s	18 ■ A’s	19 ■ A’s	20 ■ A’s	21 ■ DET	22 ■ DET
23 ■ DET	24	25 ▨ TOR	26 ▨ TOR	27 ▨ TOR	28 ▨ CLE	29 ▨ CLE
30 ▨ CLE	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 ■ MIA	2 ■ MIA	3 ■ MIA	4 ■ TOR	5 ■ TOR
6 ■ TOR	7 ■ ARI	8 ■ ARI	9 ■ ARI	10	11 ▨ BOS	12 ▨ BOS
13 ▨ BOS	14	15 ▨ HOU	16 ▨ HOU	17 ▨ HOU	18 ▨ PIT	19 ▨ PIT
20 ▨ PIT	21	22 ■ CWS	23 ■ CWS	24 ■ CWS	25 ■ CLE	26 ■ CLE
27 ■ CLE	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

20/30 Bobby Witt Jr. is the first player in MLB history with at least 20 home runs and 30 steals in each of his first four seasons.

◆

38% Quality-start percentage for the Royals' rotation last season, tied for eighth in MLB.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

SCOTT SEWELL-IMAGN IMAGES

1. Carter Jensen, C (22) The Kansas City, Missouri, native slashed .300/.391/.550 in a 20-game September cameo.

2. Blake Mitchell, C (21) Defense remains ahead of his offense, so he's a few years from the big leagues.

3. Sean Gamble, OF/2B (19) A terrific athlete with a smooth left-handed swing who could move swiftly.

4. Kendry Chourio, RHP (18) Showed advanced command with 63 strikeouts and only five walks in his debut minor-league season.

5. David Shields, LHP (19) Struck out 81 with 15 walks in 71.2 innings across 18 starts at Single-A.

6. Josh Hammond, 3B (19) Bat speed and athleticism give the 2025 first-round pick projectable pop from the right side.

7. Yandel Ricardo, SS (19) The Cuban teenager tore up the Arizona Complex League (.342/.438/.533).

8. Ramon Ramirez, C (20) Ramirez's power is advanced, and his tools are intriguing.

9. Ben Kudrna, RHP (23) The most likely top-10 prospect besides Jensen to make an impact for the Royals in 2026.

10. Drew Beam, RHP (23) Projects as a solid back-end rotation option in two or three years.

Royals Roster

Executive Vice President and General Manager: J.J. Picollo • **Manager:** Matt Quatraro • **Coaches:** José Alguacil (infield), Connor Dawson (hitting), Miguel Garcia, Damon Hollins (first base), Paul Hoover (bench), Mike McFerran (asst. pitching), Mitch Stetter (bullpen), Brian Sweeney (pitching), Marcus Thames (hitting), Vance Wilson (field coordinator, third base), Alec Zumwalt (hitting)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
58	Luinder Avila	R-R	6-3	195	8/21/01	**KANSAS CITY**	1-1	1.29	13	0	0	14.0	7	6	16
						Omaha (AAA)	2-3	5.23	14	9	0	53.1	48	23	61
						Quad Cities (A+)	0-0	3.00	3	3	0	6.0	4	3	10
38	Ryan Bergert	R-R	6-1	210	3/8/00	**KANSAS CITY**	1-2	4.43	8	8	0	40.2	37	17	39
						SAN DIEGO	1-0	2.78	11	7	0	35.2	24	18	34
						El Paso (AAA)	0-2	4.03	11	11	0	44.2	49	18	44
	Mason Black	R-R	6-3	228	12/10/99	**SAN FRANCISCO**	0-0	6.75	1	0	0	4.0	5	0	5
						Sacramento (AAA)	3-10	5.81	30	24	0	119.1	114	62	114
50	Kris Bubic	L-L	6-3	225	8/19/97	**KANSAS CITY**	8-7	2.55	20	20	0	116.1	98	39	116
65	Noah Cameron	L-L	6-3	220	7/17/99	**KANSAS CITY**	9-7	2.99	24	24	0	138.1	109	43	114
						Omaha (AAA)	2-1	3.31	7	7	0	32.2	24	13	38
87	Eric Cerantola	R-R	6-5	225	5/2/00	Omaha (AAA)	2-2	4.04	38	1	1	49.0	40	24	63
64	Steven Cruz	R-R	6-7	225	6/15/99	**KANSAS CITY**	3-1	3.74	47	0	0	45.2	36	18	38
						Omaha (AAA)	0-1	2.45	7	0	1	7.1	6	2	10
60	Lucas Erceg	L-R	6-2	214	5/1/95	**KANSAS CITY**	8-4	2.64	61	0	2	61.1	54	18	48
						Omaha (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	1.0	0	0	0
53	Carlos Estévez	R-R	6-6	277	12/28/92	**KANSAS CITY**	4-5	2.45	67	0	42	66.0	48	22	54
36	Bailey Falter	R-L	6-4	205	4/24/97	**KANSAS CITY**	0-2	11.25	4	2	0	12.0	20	7	11
						Omaha (AAA)	0-0	0.00	2	2	0	2.1	1	3	4
						PITTSBURGH	7-5	3.73	22	22	0	113.1	95	39	70
32	Stephen Kolek	R-R	6-3	210	4/18/97	**KANSAS CITY**	1-2	1.91	5	5	0	33.0	20	5	21
						Omaha (AAA)	1-3	6.63	5	5	0	19.0	30	10	20
						SAN DIEGO	4-5	4.18	14	14	0	79.2	78	26	56
						El Paso (AAA)	1-0	6.00	6	6	0	27.0	38	5	21
	Ben Kudrna	R-R	6-3	175	1/30/03	Omaha (AAA)	0-1	14.29	4	3	0	11.1	14	17	10
						NW Arkansas (AA)	2-7	4.21	20	19	0	94.0	88	33	96
57	Alex Lange	R-R	6-3	202	10/2/95	**DETROIT**	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	1.0	2	1	1
						Toledo (AAA)	2-1	4.63	24	0	0	23.1	14	14	29
						West Michigan (A+)	0-0	4.50	2	2	0	2.0	2	0	3
67	Seth Lugo	R-R	6-4	225	11/17/89	**KANSAS CITY**	8-7	4.15	26	26	0	145.1	133	55	125
41	Daniel Lynch IV	L-L	6-6	200	11/17/96	**KANSAS CITY**	6-2	3.06	57	2	1	67.2	66	26	45
						Omaha (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	2.0	1	0	3
						NW Arkansas (AA)	0-0	27.00	1	0	0	0.2	1	1	1
48	Alec Marsh	R-R	6-2	220	5/14/98	Injured — Missed Season									
66	James McArthur	R-R	6-7	230	12/11/96	Injured — Missed Season									
31	Nick Mears	R-R	6-3	217	10/7/96	**MILWAUKEE**	5-3	3.49	63	0	1	56.2	42	13	46
						Nashville (AAA)	0-0	0.00	3	0	0	3.2	2	1	1
55	Cole Ragans	L-L	6-4	190	12/12/97	**KANSAS CITY**	3-3	4.67	13	13	0	61.2	53	20	98
						Omaha (AAA)	0-1	1.35	2	2	0	6.2	3	2	14
						NW Arkansas (AA)	0-0	9.82	1	1	0	3.2	7	1	6
46	John Schreiber	R-R	6-2	224	3/5/94	**KANSAS CITY**	3-3	3.80	74	0	1	64.0	57	19	62
	Matt Strahm	R-L	6-2	190	11/12/91	**PHILADELPHIA**	2-3	2.74	66	0	6	62.1	47	20	70
52	Michael Wacha	R-R	6-6	215	7/1/91	**KANSAS CITY**	10-13	3.86	31	31	0	172.2	166	45	126
	Steven Zobac	L-R	6-3	185	10/14/00	NW Arkansas (AA)	0-3	7.68	11	11	0	36.1	55	14	37
						ACL Royals (R)	0-1	5.40	3	3	0	8.1	9	2	8

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	z	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
22	Carter Jensen	L-R	6-0	210	7/3/03	**KANSAS CITY**	.300	20	60	12	18	3	13	9	12	0
						Omaha (AAA)	.288	43	153	32	44	14	39	30	52	3
						NW Arkansas (AA)	.292	68	274	40	80	6	37	30	70	7
13	Salvador Perez	R-R	6-3	255	5/10/90	**KANSAS CITY**	.236	155	597	54	141	30	100	28	125	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
11	Maikel Garcia	R-R	6-1	180	3/3/00	**KANSAS CITY**	.286	160	595	81	170	16	74	62	84	23
6	Jonathan India	R-R	5-11	200	12/15/96	**KANSAS CITY**	.233	136	497	63	116	9	45	54	106	0
19	Michael Massey	L-R	6-0	195	3/22/98	**KANSAS CITY**	.244	77	262	20	64	3	20	9	43	2
						Omaha (AAA)	.258	25	97	13	25	4	11	6	21	0
						NW Arkansas (AA)	.071	3	14	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
9	Vinnie Pasquantino	L-L	6-3	245	10/10/97	**KANSAS CITY**	.264	160	621	72	164	32	113	49	107	1
2	Tyler Tolbert	R-R	5-11	185	1/27/98	**KANSAS CITY**	.280	64	50	19	14	1	6	1	11	21
						Omaha (AAA)	.265	29	98	20	26	3	14	9	30	11
7	Bobby Witt Jr.	R-R	6-1	200	6/14/00	**KANSAS CITY**	.295	157	623	99	184	23	88	49	125	38

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
44	Dairon Blanco	R-R	6-0	200	4/26/93	**KANSAS CITY**	.167	9	6	2	1	0	1	0	2	3
						Omaha (AAA)	.253	77	257	49	65	8	26	24	64	32
14	Jac Caglianone	L-L	6-5	250	2/9/03	**KANSAS CITY**	.157	62	210	19	33	7	18	18	52	1
						Omaha (AAA)	.357	28	112	26	40	11	29	12	20	1
						NW Arkansas (AA)	.322	38	152	32	49	9	43	19	37	2
1	Isaac Collins	S-R	5-8	188	7/22/97	**MILWAUKEE**	.263	130	372	56	98	9	54	57	93	16
28	Kyle Isbel	L-R	5-10	190	3/3/97	**KANSAS CITY**	.255	135	368	42	94	4	33	23	74	4
12	Nick Loftin	R-R	6-0	180	9/25/98	**KANSAS CITY**	.208	67	168	17	35	4	20	14	27	1
						Omaha (AAA)	.303	43	152	30	46	4	24	39	24	12
13	Kameron Misner	L-L	6-4	220	1/9/98	**TAMPA BAY**	.213	71	197	27	42	5	22	16	69	8
						Durham (AAA)	.210	38	138	25	29	8	18	25	43	9
16	John Rave	L-L	5-11	194	12/30/97	**KANSAS CITY**	.196	72	153	18	30	4	14	18	46	7
						Omaha (AAA)	.285	60	235	57	67	11	34	32	61	19
15	Lane Thomas	R-R	5-11	195	8/23/95	**CLEVELAND**	.160	39	125	10	20	4	11	14	44	4
						Columbus (AAA)	.333	7	24	7	8	2	5	2	6	1
						Akron (AA)	.000	3	8	0	0	0	0	1	4	0
8	Drew Waters	S-R	6-1	185	12/30/98	**KANSAS CITY**	.243	71	206	21	50	1	14	11	60	5
						Omaha (AAA)	.236	54	208	34	49	7	29	21	67	7

Minnesota TWINS

2026 PREDICTION
4TH
AL CENTRAL
2025 FINISH: 4TH (70-92)

A second straight season of disappointment begat real changes in Minnesota. With the team treading water and slipping below the surface in late July, the front office executed a massive sale at the trade deadline, reloading the farm system but emptying the big-league clubhouse. In late September, the club fired manager Rocco Baldelli. Most importantly, though, after a flirtation with a full-fledged sale, the Pohlad family sold minority stakes in the team to three groups of investors, eliminating debt and reorganizing the leadership of the franchise. Dramatically, in mid-December, chairman Joe Pohlad was forced out of his role, and his brother Tom took the reins. Heading into 2026, what appears to be a major change in tenor and approach from ownership is the biggest story in Twins Territory.

ROTATION

Pablo López is the ace of the staff; his absence for long stretches of 2025 hobbled the team. He shows exquisite feel for spin and sequencing, and he added a second changeup — a kick-change, with more depth and greater swing-and-miss potential — last spring. He's also the smartest and most mature person in the room at all times, making him an exceptionally positive clubhouse presence. Joe Ryan was the hurler who shouldered a full season of work for the team in 2025, though. He added a curveball, leaned more on his sinker and mixed in a new slider variant that looked more like a cutter, all en route to his best overall season to date. López and Ryan are a formidable top two, but after them, things thin out in a hurry. Enormous righty Bailey Ober battled a hip injury that cost him velocity and command, and his future is murky. Young arms Simeon Woods Richardson (no true out pitch), Zebby Matthews (too much hard contact), Taj Bradley (poor fastball command), Mick Abel (poor fastball shape) and David Festa (durability) all come with major question marks.

BULLPEN

Gutted by a summer fire sale in which their five best relievers were all sent packing, the Minnesota bullpen is starting over in 2026. The best holdover guaranteed to work out of the pen is Cole Sands, whose cutter lost some velocity and stopped missing bats in 2025. He can be tough, especially on righties, but the stuff will need to rebound. Trade acquisition Eric Orze has three pitches that can miss bats but has shown only intermittent control of them. Lefty Kody Funderburk emerged late in the campaign as a candidate for high-leverage innings in 2026. The team might also end up moving any of Bradley, Abel or Festa to the 'pen, drawing depth for their relief unit from their surplus of potential starters.

MIDDLE INFIELD

In all likelihood, Luke Keaschall will get another year to prove that he can handle second base in the majors. He didn't look good defensively as a rookie, but his bat more than made up for that. With a peculiarly steep swing (despite poor bat speed), Keaschall showed excellent feel for contact and an ability to use his

BYRON BUXTON

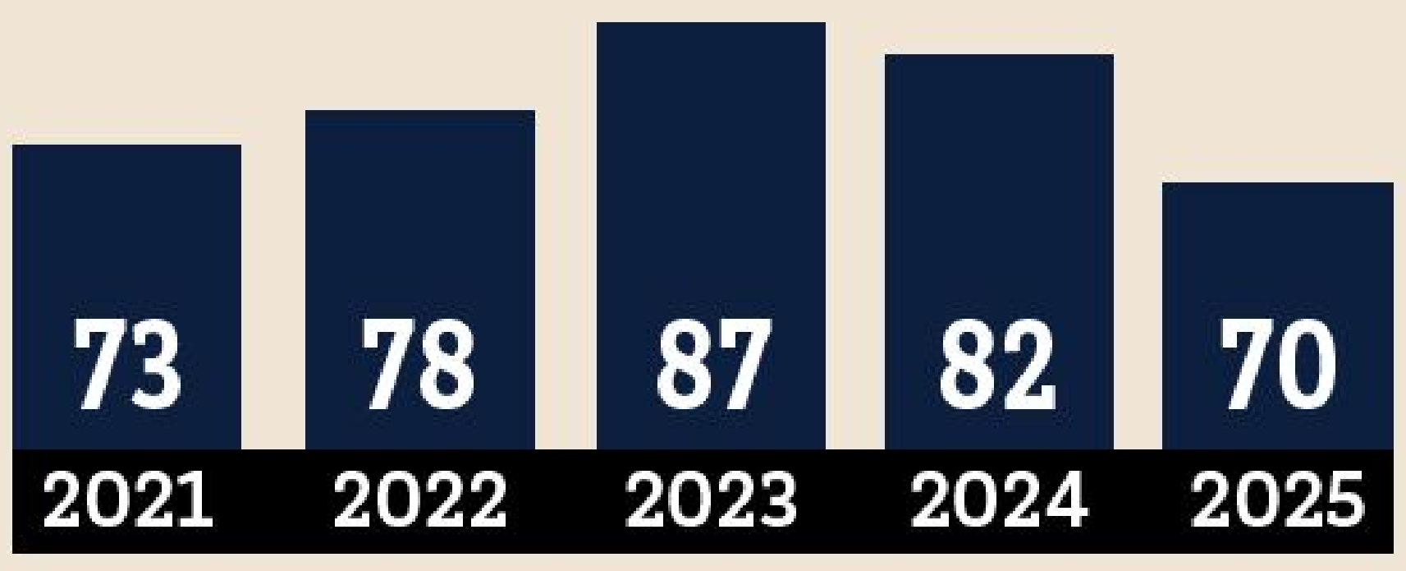
BRAD REMPEL-IMAGN IMAGES

Target Field

Opened: 2010 • Capacity: 38,544
Left: 339′ Center: 411′ Right: 328′
Tickets: 800-338-9467
mlb.com/TWINS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

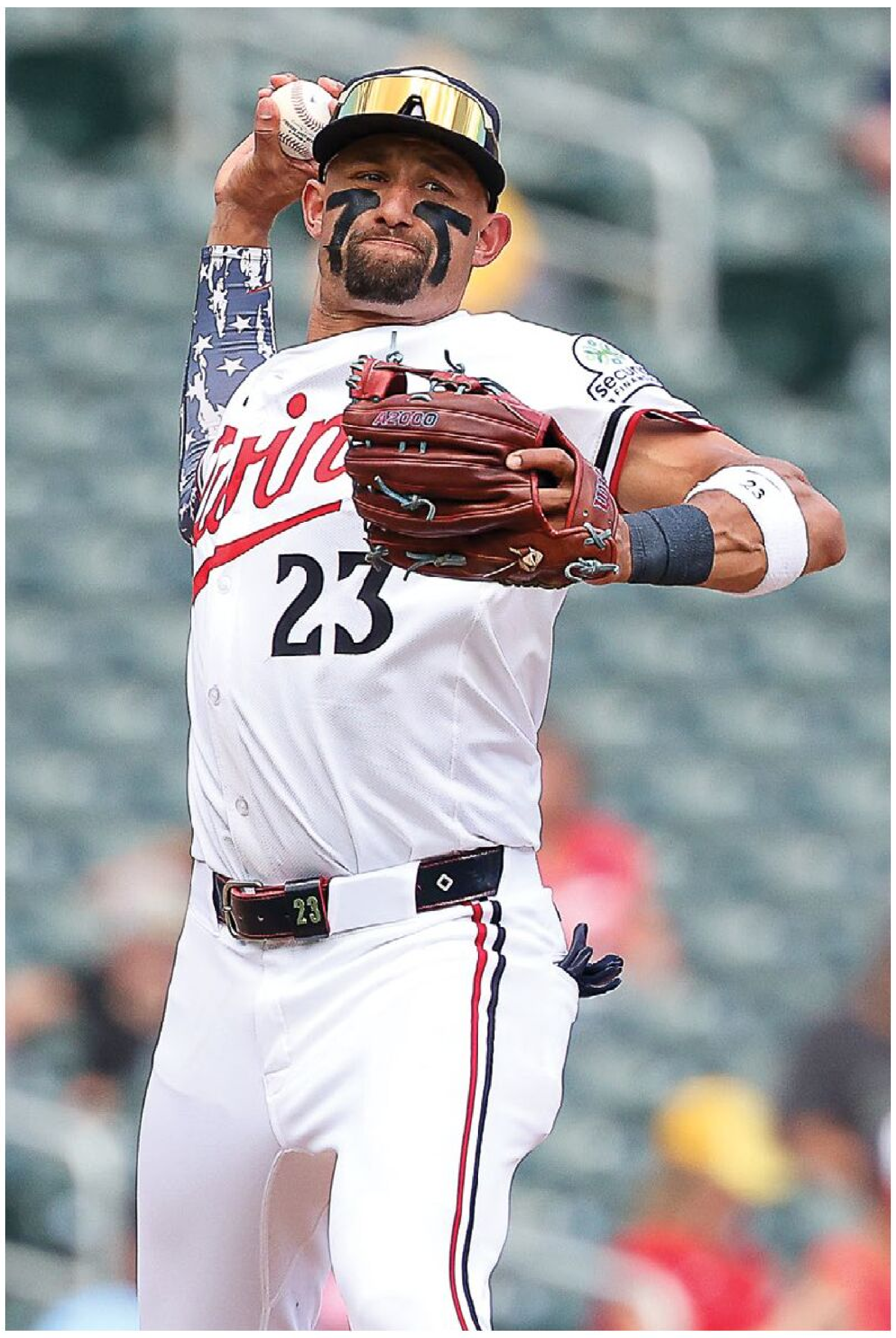
Barrels per plate appearance leaders among qualified AL hitters, 2025

1. Aaron Judge, Yankees	14.1%
2. Cal Raleigh, Mariners	11.3%
3. Byron Buxton, Twins	**11.3%**
4. Jo Adell, Angels	11.3%
5. Salvador Perez, Royals	10.9%

speed to generate slashing offense. The same can't be said for Brooks Lee, a more traditional infield athlete but one who has struggled both to hit as expected and to cover ground adequately at shortstop. Lee is a switch-hitter who boasts genuine competence from both sides of the plate, but his approach has been shaky, and he shows little feel for the barrel.

CORNERS

A disproportionate share of the Twins' hopes for 2026 hinge on the utterly unpredictable Royce Lewis. At his best, he's one of the game's more ferocious sluggers, with 35-homer power and enough maneuverability to hit for average as well. Injuries and an uneven approach threaten that production from two sides, though, and since the middle of 2024, Lewis has been a mess, even when on the field. He made great strides defensively late in 2025, offering some hope he can stick at third base, but average defense there is his ceiling. At first base, Kody Clemens could see significant time again, even after the team signed veteran slugger Josh Bell. Clemens got more aggressive early in counts in 2025 and tapped into his raw power more consistently.



ROYCE LEWIS

MATT KROHN-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

A healthy Byron Buxton is one of the game's most dynamic outfielders, with elite power and speed. He remains capable of highlight-reel catches in center field, too, although some of them are necessitated by a first step on fly balls that ranked 90th out of 93 qualified outfielders. It's still hard to count on Buxton to stay on the field, but he did so for the lion's share of 2025, and he's still just 32. His swing has evolved into a long but lethal one. Flanking him in the outfield will be mix-and-match sets of young, flawed players, headlined by Paul Bunyanesque slugger Matt Wallner. A native Minnesotan with extraordinary bat speed, Wallner took a step backward in 2025 after an ill-advised swing change, and he will try to overcome his struggles against velocity. First-round picks Trevor Larnach and Austin Martin could platoon in left field, though Larnach is a lurching defender whom the team preferred to keep at designated hitter for the majority of the past two seasons.

PROJECTED LINEUP

▪ LINEUP

CF	Byron Buxton (R)
2B	Luke Keaschall (R)
DH	Josh Bell (S)
RF	Matt Wallner (L)
C	Ryan Jeffers (R)
SS	Brooks Lee (S)
3B	Royce Lewis (R)
1B	Kody Clemens (L)
LF	Austin Martin (R)

▪ BENCH

C	Alex Jackson (R)
OF	Trevor Larnach (L)
OF	James Outman (L)
INF	Ryan Kreidler (R)

▪ ROTATION

RHP	Pablo López
RHP	Joe Ryan
RHP	Bailey Ober
RHP	Simeon Woods Richardson
RHP	Taj Bradley

▪ BULLPEN

RHP	Cole Sands (C)
RHP	Eric Orze
LHP	Kody Funderburk
RHP	Justin Topa
RHP	Pierson Ohl
RHP	Travis Adams
LHP	Connor Prielipp
RHP	Mick Abel

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE TWINS "They're always tough when they're starting Pablo López or Joe Ryan. But other than that, there's not much here. They'll see what they have in Taj Bradley and hope Bailey Ober and Simeon Woods Richardson can take the next step, but at this point, all three have limited upside. They'll take what they can get from Byron Buxton; he had a great season, but it's tough when you know your best player is never going to be out there for 140 games. It's the same story with Royce Lewis, too. They've got some promising young hitters, though — I really like Luke Keaschall, he doesn't take any pitches off, knows his skill set, he can use the whole field, turn on pitches, brings a lot of energy to that team. Ryan Jeffers is good, he's got pull-side power, can play defense, a middle-to-back-end-of-the-lineup guy with some pop, which is good. Matt Wallner is a poor man's Joey Gallo. Brooks Lee hasn't shown much at the big-league level, but he's a former first-rounder who was rushed, and you can see he's still learning. I can see him having productive at-bats, a good two-hole hitter with a chance to put up better-than-average numbers."

CATCHING

Ryan Jeffers could get the higher workload that he's coveted for the past three years, when he remained mired in a timeshare with former Twin Christian Vázquez. His big frame created challenges for him as a receiver in 2025, and he's just OK against the running game, but he's a good handler of pitching staffs and an above-average hitter for the position. Taking a more patient approach paid off with more consistent production for him last year. Alex Jackson comes in as his new tandem partner, with a hideous career batting line of .153/.239/.288 but having ratcheted up his bat speed to an elite mark in 2025. He's a defense-first option who should occasionally club a ball over the fence.

DH/BENCH

Bell could spend much of his time at DH because Clemens is a much more adroit defender. If other injuries or defensive emergencies demand that Clemens move elsewhere, though, Bell will slide to first base, and Larnach can revert to the role in which the team is most comfortable using him. The team will also ask Buxton and Jeffers to DH occasionally to maximize their availability; outfielders James Outman and Alan Roden give them defensive flexibility off the bench.

MANAGEMENT

Baldelli's firing turned out not to be a signal of a major change in organizational direction. The team's search for his replacement led them to his one-time bench coach and good friend, Derek Shelton. After five-plus unsuccessful seasons in Pittsburgh, Shelton will take over a more talented roster than any of the Pirates groups he helmed. President of baseball and business operations Derek Falvey could be on the hot seat if this season goes as poorly as the past two have; he's no longer on his first manager as the man in charge.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The changes in ownership structure and approach rescued the Twins from what looked like a potential offseason sell-off. Ryan, López and Buxton appear likely to stick around as the anchors of the roster, and with small, complementary additions around the edges, the team can contend in a wide-open AL Central. Above all, they need to get more out of their talent than they have over the past two seasons, and there's some reason to harbor optimism about that.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

SUCCESSION PLAN Control of the team changed hands late in 2025, and not in a friendly, Minnesotan way. Asked whether his brother Joe had been on board with control of the organization passing to him, new control person Tom Pohlad was blunt: "No. He was not."

SEEING DOUBLE Late in the season, Twins fans already dizzied by the roster turnover must have worried they were even more disoriented than they thought. Trade acquisition James Outman and minor-league call-up Ryan Fitzgerald bear such an uncanny resemblance to one another that even teammates joked that they couldn't tell them apart.

NEXT CAREER For one midseason game, the Twins turned their broadcast over to a players-only booth — which, since he was on the injured list anyway, turned out to include current Twin Pablo López, as well as Justin Morneau, Trevor Plouffe and Glen Perkins. The Venezuelan righthander was a hit as a color commentator.

THE BUXTON CYCLE For a week or so in July, the baseball world seemed to revolve around Byron Buxton. After being named to the All-Star team for a game played in his native Georgia, Buxton also accepted an invitation to participate in the Home Run Derby. Just before those festivities, in a Saturday afternoon home game against the Pirates, Buxton hit for the cycle — on his Bobblehead Day, no less.

Schedule

🟥 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 ▨ BAL	27	28 ▨ BAL
29 ▨ BAL	30 ▨ KC	31	1 ▨ KC	2 ▨ KC	3 🟥 TB	4 🟥 TB
5 🟥 TB	6 🟥 DET	7 🟥 DET	8 🟥 DET	9 🟥 DET	10 ▨ TOR	11 ▨ TOR
12 ▨ TOR	13 🟥 BOS	14 🟥 BOS	15 🟥 BOS	16	17 🟥 CIN	18 🟥 CIN
19 🟥 CIN	20	21 ▨ NYM	22 ▨ NYM	23 ▨ NYM	24 ▨ TB	25 ▨ TB
26 ▨ TB	27 🟥 SEA	28 🟥 SEA	29 🟥 SEA	30 🟥 TOR		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 🟥 TOR	2 🟥 TOR
3 🟥 TOR	4	5 ▨ WAS	6 ▨ WAS	7 ▨ WAS	8 ▨ CLE	9 ▨ CLE
10 ▨ CLE	11	12 🟥 MIA	13 🟥 MIA	14 🟥 MIA	15 🟥 MIL	16 🟥 MIL
17 🟥 MIL	18 🟥 HOU	19 🟥 HOU	20 🟥 HOU	21	22 ▨ BOS	23 ▨ BOS
24 ▨ BOS	25 ▨ CWS	26 ▨ CWS	27 ▨ CWS	28 ▨ CWS	29 ▨ PIT	30 ▨ PIT
31 ▨ PIT						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 🟥 CWS	2 🟥 CWS	3 🟥 CWS	4 🟥 KC	5 🟥 KC	6 🟥 KC
7 🟥 KC	8	9 ▨ DET	10 ▨ DET	11 ▨ DET	12 🟥 STL	13 🟥 STL
14 🟥 STL	15 ▨ TEX	16 ▨ TEX	17	18 ▨ TEX	19 ▨ ARI	20 ▨ ARI
21 ▨ ARI	22 🟥 LAD	23 🟥 LAD	24 🟥 LAD	25	26 🟥 COL	27 🟥 COL
28 🟥 COL	29 ▨ HOU	30 ▨ HOU				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 ▨ HOU	2	3 ▨ NYY	4 ▨ NYY
5 ▨ NYY	6	7 🟥 CLE	8 🟥 CLE	9 🟥 CLE	10 🟥 LAA	11 🟥 LAA
12 🟥 LAA	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 ▨ CHC	18 ▨ CHC
19 ▨ CHC	20 ▨ CLE	21 ▨ CLE	22 ▨ CLE	23 ▨ CLE	24 🟥 A's	25 🟥 A's
26 🟥 A's	27	28 🟥 KC	29 🟥 KC	30 🟥 KC	31 ▨ SEA	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 ▨ SEA
2 ▨ SEA	3	4 ▨ KC	5 ▨ KC	6 ▨ KC	7 ▨ MIL	8 ▨ MIL
9 ▨ MIL	10 🟥 BAL	11 🟥 BAL	12 🟥 BAL	13 🟥 PHI	14	15 🟥 PHI
16 🟥 PHI	17 🟥 ATL	18 🟥 ATL	19 🟥 ATL	20	21 ▨ SD	22 ▨ SD
23 ▨ SD	24 ▨ A's	25 ▨ A's	26 ▨ A's	27	28 🟥 CWS	29 🟥 CWS
30 🟥 CWS	31 🟥 DET					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 🟥 DET	2 🟥 DET	3	4 ▨ CWS	5 ▨ CWS
6 ▨ CWS	7 ▨ DET	8 ▨ DET	9 ▨ DET	10	11 🟥 CLE	12 🟥 CLE
13 🟥 CLE	14 🟥 NYY	15 🟥 NYY	16 🟥 NYY	17 ▨ LAA	18 ▨ LAA	19 ▨ LAA
20 ▨ LAA	21 ▨ SF	22 ▨ SF	23 ▨ SF	24	25 🟥 TEX	26 🟥 TEX
27 🟥 TEX	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

10 Players traded from the big-league roster in July, as the front office embraced the opportunity to reset a stale group.

◆

66.9 In mph, Luke Keaschall's average bat speed, one of the lowest figures in the league. That will limit his power output, but Keaschall makes contact at an excellent rate and squares the ball up often.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

JONAH HINEBAUGH/NAPLES DAILY NEWS/USA TODAY NETWORK-FLORIDA

1. Walker Jenkins, OF (21) One of the top prospects in the entire sport, a plus hitter with fluid athleticism.

2. Kaelen Culpepper, SS (23) Enters 2026 with a real chance to vault toward the majors.

3. Emmanuel Rodriguez, OF (23) Extremely patient approach. Injuries have limited him.

4. Eduardo Tait, C (19) Big deadline acquisition from Phillies is advanced hitter and receiver for his age.

5. Connor Prielipp, LHP (25) Injury history means relief role is likely, but he should be dominant there.

6. Charlee Soto, RHP (20) Second pro season was mostly lost to injury, but he'll be ready for spring training.

7. Dasan Hill, LHP (20) Made it to High-A as a teenager; has makings of three plus pitches.

8. Marek Houston, SS (21) The 2025 first-round pick is a polished defense-first shortstop prospect.

9. Gabriel Gonzalez, OF (22) Enjoyed a breakout season; tapping into raw power will be key.

10. Andrew Morris, RHP (24) Worked in more cutters and sinkers in 2025; ready to step into back-end rotation role in MLB.

Twins Roster

General Manager: Jeremy Zoll • **Manager:** Derek Shelton • **Coaches:** Trevor Amicone (asst. hitting), Keith Beauregard (hitting), Nate Dammann (quality control), Toby Gardenhire (field coordinator), Mark Hallberg (bench), LaTroy Hawkins (bullpen), Mike Rabelo (asst. bench), Pete Maki (pitching), Luis Ramirez (asst. pitching/interpreter), Rayden Sierra (asst. hitting), Grady Sizemore (first base)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
20	Mick Abel	R-R	6-5	190	8/18/01	**MINNESOTA**	1-2	8.36	4	2	0	14.0	18	7	18
						St. Paul (AAA)	0-0	1.85	5	5	0	24.1	15	8	33
						PHILADELPHIA	2-2	5.04	6	6	0	25.0	25	9	21
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	7-2	2.31	13	13	0	74.0	54	32	81
45	Travis Adams	R-R	6-1	197	1/19/00	**MINNESOTA**	1-4	7.49	18	2	0	33.2	39	17	31
						St. Paul (AAA)	4-4	3.93	23	5	3	68.2	64	23	64
26	Taj Bradley	R-R	6-2	220	3/20/01	**MINNESOTA**	0-2	6.61	6	6	0	31.1	32	12	32
						TAMPA BAY	6-6	4.61	21	21	0	111.1	99	44	95
58	David Festa	R-R	6-6	185	3/8/00	**MINNESOTA**	3-4	5.40	11	10	0	53.1	49	19	53
						St. Paul (AAA)	2-1	2.59	7	7	0	31.1	24	7	39
55	Kody Funderburk	L-L	6-4	230	11/27/96	**MINNESOTA**	4-1	3.51	39	0	1	41.0	44	18	40
						St. Paul (AAA)	3-0	1.78	19	0	2	25.1	18	9	25
	John Klein	R-R	6-5	225	4/22/02	St. Paul (AAA)	0-5	6.66	7	4	0	25.2	26	13	33
						Wichita (AA)	7-5	3.12	24	11	0	80.2	70	24	95
49	Pablo López	L-R	6-4	225	3/7/96	**MINNESOTA**	5-4	2.74	14	14	0	75.2	64	20	73
						St. Paul (AAA)	0-2	2.81	4	4	0	16.0	17	2	18
52	Zebby Matthews	R-R	6-5	225	5/22/00	**MINNESOTA**	5-6	5.56	16	16	0	79.1	94	24	88
						St. Paul (AAA)	2-1	1.72	8	8	0	36.2	31	9	47
	Andrew Morris	R-R	6-0	195	9/1/01	St. Paul (AAA)	4-6	4.09	21	19	0	94.2	98	28	89
17	Bailey Ober	R-R	6-9	260	7/12/95	**MINNESOTA**	6-9	5.10	27	27	0	146.1	159	31	120
						St. Paul (AAA)	0-0	1.00	2	2	0	9.0	6	1	9
62	Pierson Ohl	R-R	6-1	180	9/10/99	**MINNESOTA**	0-3	5.10	14	3	0	30.0	38	7	27
						St. Paul (AAA)	0-2	3.29	9	4	1	27.1	25	6	30
						Wichita (AA)	4-1	2.08	13	2	1	39.0	31	4	46
						Fort Myers (A)	1-0	0.00	2	0	0	5.0	2	1	10
	Eric Orze	R-R	6-4	205	8/21/97	**TAMPA BAY**	1-1	3.02	33	0	3	41.2	38	19	40
						Durham (AAA)	4-0	2.20	24	0	2	28.2	19	10	37
	Connor Prielipp	L-L	6-2	210	1/10/01	St. Paul (AAA)	1-3	5.14	5	4	0	21.0	20	13	25
						Wichita (AA)	0-6	3.65	19	19	0	61.2	74	18	73
85	Marco Raya	R-R	6-1	170	8/7/02	St. Paul (AAA)	2-8	6.02	30	20	0	98.2	103	57	102
	Kendry Rojas	L-L	6-2	190	11/26/02	St. Paul (AAA)	1-2	6.59	8	8	0	27.1	37	23	28
						Buffalo (AAA)	0-1	10.80	1	1	0	5.0	10	2	6
						New Hampshire (AA)	0-2	3.86	4	4	0	18.2	18	2	30
						Dunedin (A)	1-0	0.00	4	3	0	13.0	5	3	18
						FCL Blue Jays (R)	0-0	3.60	2	2	0	5.0	5	2	8
41	Joe Ryan	R-R	6-2	205	6/5/96	**MINNESOTA**	13-10	3.42	31	30	0	171.0	138	39	194
44	Cole Sands	R-R	6-3	215	7/17/97	**MINNESOTA**	4-6	4.50	69	3	3	72.0	65	19	64
48	Justin Topa	R-R	6-4	200	3/7/91	**MINNESOTA**	1-5	3.90	54	1	4	60.0	68	18	49
24	S. Woods Richardson	R-R	6-3	210	9/27/00	**MINNESOTA**	7-4	4.04	23	22	0	111.1	96	46	107
						St. Paul (AAA)	2-0	4.43	5	4	0	22.1	21	6	27

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Alex Jackson	R-R	6-1	238	12/25/95	**BALTIMORE**	.220	37	91	17	20	5	8	5	37	0
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	.226	44	164	31	37	10	34	19	53	1
27	Ryan Jeffers	R-R	6-3	235	6/3/97	**MINNESOTA**	.266	119	406	47	108	9	47	50	91	1
65	Jhonny Pereda	R-R	6-1	202	4/18/96	**MINNESOTA**	.345	11	29	1	10	0	1	2	8	0
						St. Paul (AAA)	.294	20	68	13	20	2	10	18	17	0
						ATHLETICS	.175	19	40	3	7	0	3	6	13	0
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.319	27	91	15	29	2	15	13	23	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
56	Josh Bell	S-R	6-3	261	8/14/92	**WASHINGTON**	.237	140	468	54	111	22	63	57	88	0
2	Kody Clemens	L-R	6-0	200	5/15/96	**MINNESOTA**	.216	112	342	46	74	19	52	28	93	5
						PHILADELPHIA	.000	7	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
11	Mickey Gasper	S-R	5-10	205	10/11/95	**MINNESOTA**	.158	45	95	15	15	2	11	10	20	2
						St. Paul (AAA)	.285	47	179	32	51	10	26	25	38	2
47	Edouard Julien	L-R	6-0	195	4/30/99	**MINNESOTA**	.220	64	182	13	40	3	12	22	61	0
						St. Paul (AAA)	.276	70	239	33	66	11	34	53	82	5
15	Luke Keaschall	R-R	6-0	190	8/15/02	**MINNESOTA**	.302	49	182	25	55	4	28	19	29	14
						St. Paul (AAA)	.263	28	95	16	25	1	9	17	17	11
22	Brooks Lee	S-R	6-1	205	2/14/01	**MINNESOTA**	.236	139	487	50	115	16	64	31	92	3
23	Royce Lewis	R-R	6-0	200	6/5/99	**MINNESOTA**	.237	106	376	36	89	13	52	25	80	12
						St. Paul (AAA)	.129	9	31	3	4	0	1	1	8	0
	Eric Wagaman	R-R	6-4	210	8/14/97	**MIAMI**	.250	140	476	56	119	9	53	32	100	4

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
25	Byron Buxton	R-R	6-2	190	12/18/93	**MINNESOTA**	.264	126	488	97	129	35	83	41	148	24
	Gabriel Gonzalez	R-R	5-11	165	1/4/04	St. Paul (AAA)	.316	34	133	14	42	6	23	9	28	2
						Wichita (AA)	.344	55	212	39	73	4	15	26	30	5
						Cedar Rapids (A+)	.319	34	138	22	44	5	28	13	22	1
	Ryan Kreidler	R-R	6-3	208	11/12/97	**DETROIT**	.105	17	38	5	4	0	0	4	19	2
						Toledo (AAA)	.251	84	283	44	71	4	37	50	93	13
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.163	15	49	2	8	1	1	8	16	5
9	Trevor Larnach	L-R	6-3	223	2/26/97	**MINNESOTA**	.250	142	503	62	126	17	60	53	122	4
16	Austin Martin	R-R	5-11	185	3/23/99	**MINNESOTA**	.282	50	156	22	44	1	7	22	31	11
						St. Paul (AAA)	.319	32	113	13	36	1	14	21	17	2
	Hendry Mendez	L-L	6-3	175	11/7/03	Wichita (AA)	.324	33	111	24	36	3	16	27	21	4
						Reading (AA)	.290	85	297	44	86	8	46	40	44	6
43	James Outman	L-R	6-2	215	5/14/97	**MINNESOTA**	.147	37	95	11	14	4	7	8	45	1
						St. Paul (AAA)	.235	12	51	9	12	3	10	6	19	3
						LOS ANGELES NL	.103	22	39	8	4	2	4	4	18	0
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	.289	70	284	61	82	20	74	39	101	14
18	Alan Roden	L-R	5-11	215	12/22/99	**MINNESOTA**	.158	12	38	5	6	1	1	0	13	1
						TORONTO	.204	43	98	12	20	1	8	8	24	0
						Buffalo (AAA)	.331	32	121	25	40	3	18	16	13	4
32	Emmanuel Rodriguez	L-L	5-11	210	2/28/03	St. Paul (AAA)	.258	52	163	35	42	6	27	45	67	9
						Fort Myers (A)	.321	8	28	4	9	0	3	8	12	1
						FCL Twins (R)	.294	5	17	4	5	0	1	2	6	0
38	Matt Wallner	L-R	6-4	220	12/12/97	**MINNESOTA**	.202	104	336	47	68	22	40	46	114	4

ATHLETICS

2026 PREDICTION
4TH
AL WEST
2025 FINISH: 4TH (76-86)

This season figures to be quite different from last season, if only because the A's have a better idea of what they are dealing with in their temporary home. They've spent a year in West Sacramento, so they are no longer strangers in a strange land when playing in tiny Sutter Health Park. They are well-positioned to succeed in their quest for the franchise's first winning season since 2021 after having gone from 50 wins in 2023 to 69 in 2024 to last year's 76. They haven't spent a ton on free agents, in large part because they are consolidating a promising offense.

General manager David Forst says the club is likely to try to follow the signing of left fielder Tyler Soderstrom to a contract extension by also extending one or more of the team's other core youngsters, a group that includes first baseman Nick Kurtz, shortstop Jacob Wilson and catcher Shea Langeliers.

ROTATION

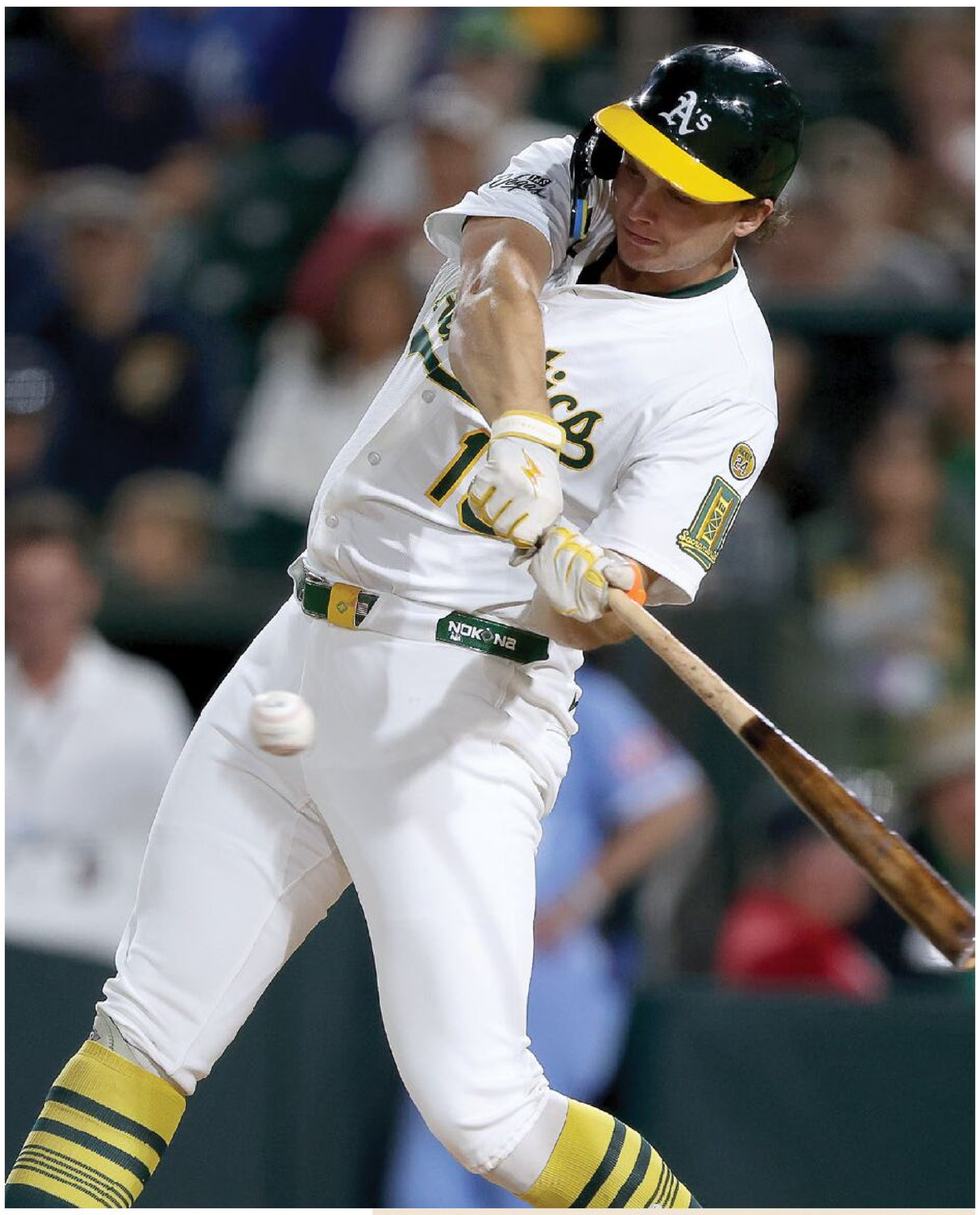
The rotation heads into 2026 needing help. Last year, the team added righthander Luis Severino and lefty Jeffrey Springs, but the depth here is still very much in question, even though four pitchers return having made at least 16 starts for the club in 2025 — Springs (32), Severino (29), Jacob Lopez (17) and J.T. Ginn (16). Lopez, who spent the first few weeks of the season in the minors, staked his claim for a spot by going 4-1 with a 3.09 ERA in his final six starts, while Ginn moved from the bullpen to start 12 games after the All-Star break. Luis Medina lost all of 2025 to recovery from Tommy John surgery, but the club hopes he can fill in at the bottom of the rotation.

BULLPEN

The relief corps took a major hit with the midseason trade of righthander Mason Miller, but there is a chance they've got a replacement in lefthander Hogan Harris. In 18 August and September games, he allowed only three runs for a 1.16 ERA, setting the stage for him to close in 2026. Coming off his first full season, Justin Sterner figures to join newcomer Mark Leiter Jr., Michael Kelly and Elvis Alvarado as the primary right-handed setup men for Harris. The club has only one established lefty beyond Harris in Brady Basso. That means that lefthander Gage Jump, the most highly rated of a good crop in the upper minors, has a good chance to break through.

MIDDLE INFIELD

Wilson spent the first three months of his rookie season battling Aaron Judge for the AL batting lead, ultimately settling for a virtual second-place tie with Bo Bichette at .311, 20 points behind Judge. There were questions about his defense, but sure hands and a strong arm showed themselves in 2025 to put the A's minds at ease. The club is hoping that the merry-go-round at second base will be a thing of the past with the addition of two-time All-Star Jeff McNeil,


NICK KURTZ

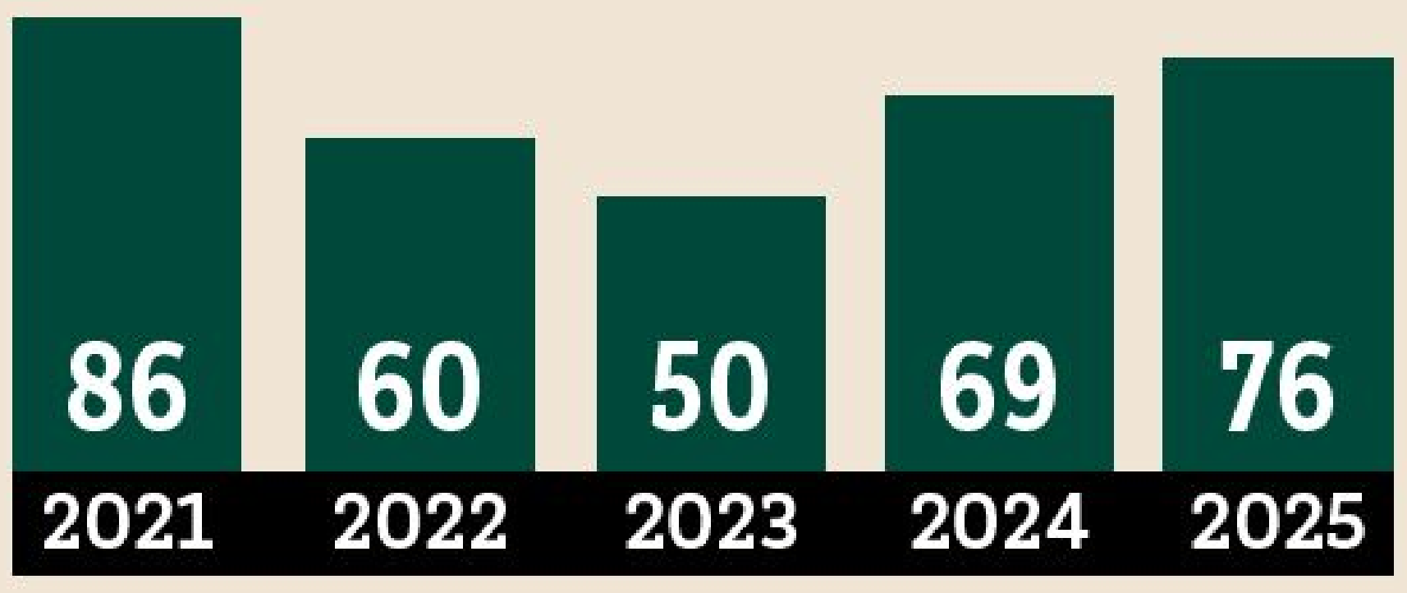
DENNIS LEE-IMAGN IMAGES

Sutter Health Park

Opened: 2000 • Capacity: 14,014
Left: 330′ Center: 403′ Right: 325′
Tickets: 916-371-HITS (4487)
mlb.com.ATHLETICS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Highest single-season OPS for a qualified rookie, 2021-25

1. Nick Kurtz, A's, 2025	**1.004**
2. Frank Schwindel, A's/Cubs, 2021	.962
3. Nolan Jones, Rockies, 2023	.931
4. Joey Meneses, Nationals, 2022	.930
5. Royce Lewis, Twins, 2023	.921

although injuries limited him to 122 games last season. He'll battle injury-plagued Zack Gelof, who played in only 30 games in 2025.

CORNERS

Kurtz, the club's first-round pick in 2024, seems to be set at first base for the near future after a 36-homer, 86-RBI season that led all rookies in both categories and earned him AL Rookie of the Year honors. Soderstrom backs up at first. Over at third, the A's have perhaps their biggest question mark after Gio Urshela failed to pan out last season. Max Muncy (not that one) started 30 games, Brett Harris 20 and Darell Hernaiz 17, and, with McNeil the new man at second, you can add Max Schuemann, who started 11 games at third last year, to the third base mix.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

RF	Lawrence Butler (L)
DH	Brent Rooker (R)
1B	Nick Kurtz (L)
LF	Tyler Soderstrom (L)
C	Shea Langeliers (R)
SS	Jacob Wilson (R)
2B	Jeff McNeil (L)
3B	Max Muncy (R)
CF	Denzel Clarke (R)

■ BENCH

C	Austin Wynns (R)
INF	Darell Hernaiz (R)
OF	Carlos Cortes (L)
OF	Colby Thomas (R)

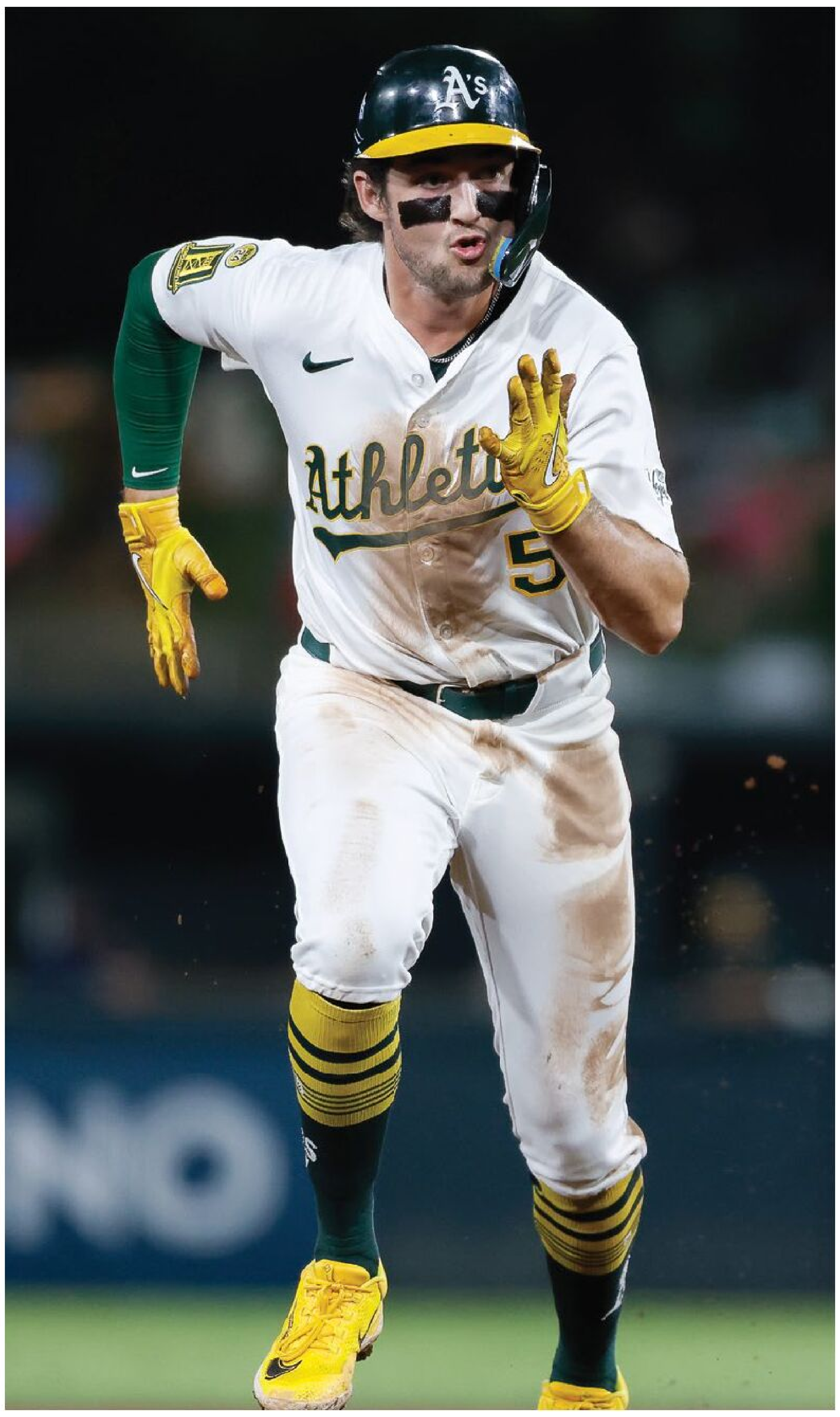
■ ROTATION

LHP	Jeffrey Springs
RHP	Luis Severino
RHP	Luis Morales
LHP	Jacob Lopez
RHP	Luis Medina

■ BULLPEN

LHP	Hogan Harris (C)
RHP	Justin Sterner
RHP	Mark Leiter Jr.
RHP	Michael Kelly
RHP	Elvis Alvarado
LHP	Brady Basso
RHP	Tyler Ferguson
RHP	Mitch Spence

SERGIO ESTRADA-IMAGN IMAGES



JACOB WILSON

OUTFIELD

The A's outfield underwent significant changes last season. Soderstrom moved from first base to left field, where he'd never played professionally before, and wound up leading the team with 93 RBIs. Right fielder Lawrence Butler saw his average fall from .262 to .234, but he made inroads leading off, hitting .253 with 17 of his 21 homers and 20 of his 22 steals coming when he was at the top of the lineup. Jumping into the mix last year was rookie defensive whiz Denzel Clarke in center. He made a number of improbable catches, including an epic steal of a homer from the Angels' Nolan Schanuel in June. Nicknamed "Spider-Man" — he was also dubbed "Elastic Man" by Torii Hunter, who also claimed the nickname "Spider-Man" during his playing days — he spent the last two months sidelined with a right adductor strain. He's healthy now, though. The backups figure to be Carlos Cortes, a left-handed hitter, and righthander Colby Thomas. Cortes averaged .309, and Thomas has 49 minor-league homers over the past two seasons.

CATCHING

After cycling through a series of good catchers who came up through the farm system in the last half-dozen seasons, the club has settled happily on Langeliers. He brings good skills behind the plate and has proven to be an RBI machine with power. He doesn't sit much, but when he does, Austin Wynns, a 35-year-old picked up in mid-2025 from the Reds, has settled in as the backup.

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE ATHLETICS "The A's are the A's. They're in limbo, not a contender, but not bad. They play in a minor-league park that plays like a minor-league park. None of their starters worry you, but they've got a respectable bullpen with guys like Elvis Alvarado, Hogan Harris, Michael Kelly and Justin Sterner. They kept them in a lot of games and made it so they didn't really miss Mason Miller after the deadline. They've got some bats you have to respect. Jacob Wilson is going to win a batting title; he doesn't walk, doesn't strike out, puts it in play, just a really solid hitter. Shea Langeliers is dangerous; Nick Kurtz is a monster. Brent Rooker will get his 30 home runs, but he's very pitchable."

DH/BENCH

In the past three seasons, Brent Rooker has gone from a journeyman corner outfielder/DH to a two-time All-Star and a 2024 Silver Slugger award winner. It's earned him a contract through 2029 with an option for 2030. And he doesn't need much backup, having played in all 162 games for the A's last year, 135 of those starts as the DH. When Rooker is in the field, Langeliers or Kurtz is the likely DH. Although Schuemann played a combined 63 games at second (39) and short (24) last year, he's likely to see most of his time this year at third with Urshela having moved on. He'll likely share time with Harris, who hit .324 over 17 September games, and Hernaiz, who, like Schuemann, will also spend time at second. In the outfield, young guns Cortes and Thomas seem ready to step up. Cortez has a history of hitting for average, and Thomas, the more likely of the two to spend time in center, has more power.

MANAGEMENT

In his first four seasons as the club's manager, Mark Kotsay has yet to field a team with a winning record. But he's garnered much respect for getting the most out of what has been mostly an underfunded roster. Forst likes what he's got in Kotsay, whom he signed to a contract extension through 2028. Forst, who is in the final year of his deal, says he's putting together "a big effort to keep this group together. … I know that ownership is making that effort." Marc Badain, hired last March to run the business side of the organization, is staying plenty busy as the move to Las Vegas nears. He led the Raiders' relocation to Las Vegas.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The A's will be a team that can't be dismissed out of hand, although if the starting rotation doesn't meld, they're still facing an uphill climb. This is a team with an offense that should only get better and a defense that is competent, if not stellar. But it all comes down to the starting pitching — last season, the offense scored 733 runs, sixth-best in the AL, but the pitchers surrendered 817, second-worst in the AL.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

UNCLEAR FUTURE Aside from Billy Beane — the team's famed former general manager who started the Moneyball movement and who remains a senior advisor to owner John Fisher — the only A's front office type under contract beyond next season is manager Mark Kotsay. GM David Forst and the A's are in extension talks, however.

LUIS SANG THE BLUES In June, Luis Severino spoke for the rest of the pitchers when he bemoaned the way Sacramento's Sutter Health Park was built for hitters. The front office, which had made him the club's ace with a three-year, $67 million deal, was annoyed enough to seriously consider trading him. But he was better in the second half (a 3.00 ERA and a .239 opponents' batting average in his final 10 games), and the A's moved away from trade talk.

STANDING OUT In 2025, the Athletics were the only team with a smaller franchise-record contract than the Chicago White Sox, but that's no longer the case after the A's extended Tyler Soderstrom for $86 million on Christmas Day.

FAMILY TIES Denzel Clarke didn't play in his first big-league game until last year. But getting to the majors is something of a family thing. He has two cousins — brothers Josh and Bo Naylor — already in the bigs, and another Naylor, middle infielder Myles, is working his way through the A's minor league system.

EITHER ARM WILL DO Outfielder Carlos Cortes throws left-handed, which normally precludes a player from being used at second, third or short. But he's ambidextrous and throws right-handed when put in the infield. He could see some time at third base.

Schedule

🟩 HOME ⬜ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26	27 ⬜ TOR	28 ⬜ TOR
29 ⬜ TOR	30 ⬜ ATL	31 ⬜ ATL	1 ⬜ ATL	2	3 🟩 HOU	4 🟩 HOU
5 🟩 HOU	6	7 ⬜ NYY	8 ⬜ NYY	9 ⬜ NYY	10 ⬜ NYM	11 ⬜ NYM
12 ⬜ NYM	13 🟩 TEX	14 🟩 TEX	15 🟩 TEX	16 🟩 TEX	17 🟩 CWS	18 🟩 CWS
19 🟩 CWS	20 ⬜ SEA	21 ⬜ SEA	22 ⬜ SEA	23	24 ⬜ TEX	25 ⬜ TEX
26 ⬜ TEX	27	28 🟩 KC	29 🟩 KC	30 🟩 KC		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 🟩 CLE	2 🟩 CLE
3 🟩 CLE	4	5 ⬜ PHI	6 ⬜ PHI	7 ⬜ PHI	8 ⬜ BAL	9 ⬜ BAL
10 ⬜ BAL	11	12 🟩 STL	13 🟩 STL	14 🟩 STL	15 🟩 SF	16 🟩 SF
17 🟩 SF	18 ⬜ LAA	19 ⬜ LAA	20 ⬜ LAA	21 ⬜ LAA	22 ⬜ SD	23 ⬜ SD
24 ⬜ SD	25 🟩 SEA	26 🟩 SEA	27 🟩 SEA	28	29 🟩 NYY	30 🟩 NYY
31 🟩 NYY						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2 ⬜ CHC	3 ⬜ CHC	4 ⬜ CHC	5 ⬜ HOU	6 ⬜ HOU
7 ⬜ HOU	8 🟩 MIL	9 🟩 MIL	10 🟩 MIL	11	12 🟩 COL	13 🟩 COL
14 🟩 COL	15 🟩 PIT	16 🟩 PIT	17 🟩 PIT	18 🟩 LAA	19 🟩 LAA	20 🟩 LAA
21 🟩 LAA	22	23 ⬜ SF	24 ⬜ SF	25 ⬜ SF	26 ⬜ LAA	27 ⬜ LAA
28 ⬜ LAA	29 🟩 LAD	30 🟩 LAD				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 🟩 LAD	2	3 🟩 MIA	4 🟩 MIA
5 🟩 MIA	6	7 ⬜ DET	8 ⬜ DET	9 ⬜ DET	10 ⬜ CWS	11 ⬜ CWS
12 ⬜ CWS	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 🟩 WAS	18 🟩 WAS
19 🟩 WAS	20 ⬜ ARI	21 ⬜ ARI	22 ⬜ ARI	23	24 ⬜ MIN	25 ⬜ MIN
26 ⬜ MIN	27 🟩 BOS	28 🟩 BOS	29 🟩 BOS	30 🟩 BOS	31 🟩 DET	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 🟩 DET
2 🟩 DET	3	4 ⬜ CIN	5 ⬜ CIN	6 ⬜ CIN	7 ⬜ BOS	8 ⬜ BOS
9 ⬜ BOS	10 🟩 TB	11 🟩 TB	12 🟩 TB	13	14 🟩 TEX	15 🟩 TEX
16 🟩 TEX	17 ⬜ KC	18 ⬜ KC	19 ⬜ KC	20 ⬜ KC	21 ⬜ HOU	22 ⬜ HOU
23 ⬜ HOU	24 🟩 MIN	25 🟩 MIN	26 🟩 MIN	27	28 🟩 BAL	29 🟩 BAL
30 🟩 BAL	31 ⬜ TEX					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 ⬜ TEX	2 ⬜ TEX	3 ⬜ SEA	4 ⬜ SEA	5 ⬜ SEA
6 ⬜ SEA	7 🟩 TOR	8 🟩 TOR	9 🟩 TOR	10	11 🟩 SEA	12 🟩 SEA
13 🟩 SEA	14	15 ⬜ TB	16 ⬜ TB	17 ⬜ TB	18 ⬜ CLE	19 ⬜ CLE
20 ⬜ CLE	21	22 🟩 LAA	23 🟩 LAA	24 🟩 HOU	25 🟩 HOU	26 🟩 HOU
27 🟩 HOU	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

26 The improvement in wins from 2023 to 2025 (50 to 69 to 76). Even so, the club has suffered four consecutive losing seasons for the first time since a six-year streak from 1993-98.

◆

3.56% The A's allowed homers on 3.56% of opponent plate appearances, second-worst in the AL.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

DANIEL SHIREY/MLB PHOTOS VIA GETTY IMAGES

- **1. Leo De Vries, SS (19)** Considered the top international player in 2024, he has defensive range and a strong arm and seems likely to settle at SS.

2. Jamie Arnold, LHP (22) Scouts liken him to a young Chris Sale thanks to strikeout-inducing high-80s slider.

3. Gage Jump, LHP (22) Displayed a 97 mph fastball and crisp breaking pitches at High-A and Double-A.

4. Braden Nett, RHP (23) Can hit 99 mph with his fastball. Also has a cutter, slider, curve and change.

5. Henry Bolte, OF (22) Has a strong arm and great speed that translated to 44 steals in 46 attempts in '25.

6. Devin Taylor, OF (22) Showed power promise during his debut at Single-A Stockton.

7. Tommy White, 3B (23) The A's went over slot to sign him for $3 million in 2024. Nicknamed "Tommy Tanks" for his power.

8. Henry Baez, RHP (23) Minor League Pitcher of the Year for the Padres organization in 2024.

9. Mason Barnett, RHP (25) Has four pitches (a mid-90s fastball, curve, change and sweeper).

10. Joshua Kuroda-Grauer, SS (23) He has the range and the instincts of a shortstop, but his arm strength may see him settle in at 2B.

Athletics Roster

General Manager: David Forst • **Manager:** Mark Kotsay • **Coaches:** Mike Aldrete (hitting), Darren Bush (bench and director of hitting), Ryan Christenson (first base), Chris Cron (hitting), Bobby Crosby (third base), Scott Emerson (pitching), Ramon Hernandez (major league and interpreter), Dan Hubbs (bullpen), Marcus Jensen (quality control)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
61	Elvis Alvarado	R-R	6-4	183	2/23/99	**ATHLETICS**	**1-1**	**3.19**	**37**	**0**	**0**	**42.1**	**34**	**22**	**50**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	2-1	3.38	25	0	8	29.1	20	13	34
	Henry Baez	R-R	6-3	175	10/12/02	Midland (AA)	1-1	5.84	3	3	0	12.1	13	4	11
						San Antonio (AA)	4-2	1.96	20	20	0	96.2	66	31	89
63	Mason Barnett	R-R	6-0	218	11/7/00	**ATHLETICS**	**1-1**	**6.85**	**5**	**5**	**0**	**22.1**	**26**	**11**	**18**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	6-2	6.13	25	23	0	119.0	125	65	124
66	Brady Basso	R-L	6-2	213	10/8/97	**ATHLETICS**	**1-1**	**2.31**	**11**	**1**	**0**	**11.2**	**12**	**9**	**8**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	0-0	9.00	7	0	0	8.0	11	3	9
						Stockton (A)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.0	1	0	2
68	Joey Estes	R-R	6-2	190	10/8/01	**ATHLETICS**	**0-2**	**9.82**	**3**	**2**	**0**	**11.0**	**16**	**6**	**6**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	4-4	5.51	17	15	0	80.0	84	20	67
44	Tyler Ferguson	R-R	6-4	225	10/5/93	**ATHLETICS**	**4-2**	**4.66**	**56**	**0**	**2**	**58.0**	**43**	**34**	**54**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	0-1	0.90	9	0	1	10.0	8	3	11
70	J.T. Ginn	R-R	6-2	200	5/20/99	**ATHLETICS**	**4-7**	**5.08**	**23**	**16**	**0**	**90.1**	**92**	**31**	**99**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	1-0	2.11	5	5	0	21.1	15	9	30
36	Hogan Harris	R-L	6-3	230	12/26/96	**ATHLETICS**	**2-1**	**3.20**	**48**	**0**	**4**	**64.2**	**54**	**33**	**65**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	2-1	4.30	10	0	0	14.2	14	7	25
53	Gunnar Hoglund	L-R	6-4	220	12/17/99	**ATHLETICS**	**1-3**	**6.40**	**6**	**6**	**0**	**32.1**	**38**	**11**	**23**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	1-2	2.43	6	6	0	29.2	24	7	30
67	Grant Holman	R-R	6-6	250	5/31/00	**ATHLETICS**	**4-2**	**5.09**	**22**	**2**	**0**	**23.0**	**26**	**9**	**17**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	1-0	0.00	8	0	4	9.1	1	1	9
49	Michael Kelly	R-R	6-4	185	9/6/92	**ATHLETICS**	**4-4**	**3.18**	**42**	**0**	**2**	**39.2**	**32**	**19**	**29**
	Mark Leiter Jr.	R-R	6-0	210	3/13/91	**NEW YORK AL**	**6-7**	**4.84**	**59**	**0**	**2**	**48.1**	**57**	**17**	**54**
						Somerset (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	1.0	0	1	0
57	Jacob Lopez	L-L	6-4	220	3/11/98	**ATHLETICS**	**7-7**	**4.08**	**21**	**17**	**0**	**92.2**	**81**	**37**	**113**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	3-0	2.33	6	4	0	27.0	16	8	38
46	Luis Medina	R-R	6-1	175	5/3/99	Injured — Missed Season									
58	Luis Morales	R-R	6-3	200	9/24/02	**ATHLETICS**	**4-3**	**3.14**	**10**	**9**	**0**	**48.2**	**38**	**18**	**43**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	4-2	4.40	15	6	0	47.0	39	20	54
						Midland (AA)	3-1	2.98	8	8	0	42.1	28	15	53
	Braden Nett	R-R	6-3	185	6/18/02	Midland (AA)	1-3	4.60	7	7	0	31.1	36	14	30
						San Antonio (AA)	5-4	3.39	17	17	0	74.1	71	34	86
54	Eduarniel Núñez	R-R	6-2	170	6/7/99	**ATHLETICS**	**1-0**	**9.00**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**8.0**	**9**	**7**	**9**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	1-0	3.09	10	0	0	11.2	8	8	15
						SAN DIEGO	**0-0**	**3.86**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**4.2**	**4**	**4**	**2**
						El Paso (AAA)	2-0	0.00	11	0	5	12.1	2	6	18
						San Antonio (AA)	2-1	3.57	18	0	2	22.2	17	11	38
50	Jack Perkins	R-R	6-1	220	12/26/99	**ATHLETICS**	**3-2**	**4.19**	**12**	**4**	**3**	**38.2**	**27**	**18**	**37**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	3-2	2.86	9	9	0	44.0	25	20	68
40	Luis Severino	R-R	6-2	218	2/20/94	**ATHLETICS**	**8-11**	**4.54**	**29**	**29**	**0**	**162.2**	**162**	**50**	**124**
28	Mitch Spence	R-R	6-1	185	5/6/98	**ATHLETICS**	**3-6**	**5.10**	**32**	**8**	**1**	**84.2**	**96**	**26**	**66**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	0-1	6.21	8	7	0	29.0	41	12	31
59	Jeffrey Springs	L-L	6-3	218	9/20/92	**ATHLETICS**	**11-11**	**4.11**	**32**	**30**	**0**	**171.0**	**153**	**54**	**138**
60	Justin Sterner	R-R	6-1	215	8/29/96	**ATHLETICS**	**4-3**	**3.18**	**59**	**1**	**0**	**65.0**	**47**	**21**	**70**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	0-0	9.00	3	0	0	3.0	4	2	1
30	Ken Waldichuk	L-L	6-4	220	1/8/98	Las Vegas (AAA)	2-6	8.65	16	15	0	51.0	63	42	64
						Stockton (A)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	3.0	1	0	4
	Chen Zhong-Ao Zhuang	R-R	6-1	198	8/25/00	Midland (AA)	6-11	4.08	28	26	0	145.2	151	35	145

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
23	Shea Langeliers	R-R	6-0	205	11/18/97	**ATHLETICS**	**.277**	**123**	**481**	**73**	**133**	**31**	**72**	**36**	**103**	**7**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.615	3	13	6	8	1	4	0	0	0
29	Austin Wynns	R-R	6-1	190	12/10/90	**ATHLETICS**	**.222**	**22**	**63**	**7**	**14**	**3**	**10**	**2**	**20**	**0**
						CINCINNATI	**.400**	**18**	**40**	**6**	**16**	**3**	**11**	**3**	**12**	**0**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
20	Zack Gelof	R-R	6-2	205	10/19/99	**ATHLETICS**	**.174**	**30**	**92**	**12**	**16**	**2**	**7**	**7**	**46**	**1**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.256	47	176	46	45	12	31	34	54	12
11	Brett Harris	R-R	6-2	208	6/24/98	**ATHLETICS**	**.274**	**32**	**73**	**11**	**20**	**0**	**5**	**7**	**21**	**1**
						Las VEGAS (AAA)	.282	59	216	40	61	12	39	28	38	7
						ACL Athletics (R)	1.000	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
2	Darell Hernaiz	R-R	6-0	190	8/3/01	**ATHLETICS**	**.231**	**51**	**173**	**17**	**40**	**2**	**16**	**17**	**24**	**3**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.305	96	387	67	118	4	50	46	51	12
16	Nick Kurtz	L-L	6-5	240	3/12/03	**ATHLETICS**	**.290**	**117**	**420**	**90**	**122**	**36**	**86**	**63**	**151**	**2**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.321	20	84	18	27	7	24	10	26	0
						Stockton (A)	.667	1	3	2	2	1	3	1	0	0
	Jeff McNeil	L-R	6-0	195	4/8/72	**NEW YORK (NL)**	**.243**	**122**	**399**	**42**	**97**	**12**	**54**	**49**	**55**	**3**
10	Max Muncy	R-R	6-1	180	8/25/02	**ATHLETICS**	**.214**	**63**	**206**	**17**	**44**	**9**	**23**	**10**	**68**	**1**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.325	31	123	24	40	3	22	11	32	1
12	Max Schuemann	R-R	6-0	186	6/11/97	**ATHLETICS**	**.197**	**101**	**183**	**20**	**36**	**2**	**13**	**22**	**35**	**7**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.400	5	20	4	8	1	6	4	4	0
5	Jacob Wilson	R-R	6-2	190	3/30/02	**ATHLETICS**	**.311**	**125**	**486**	**62**	**151**	**13**	**63**	**27**	**39**	**5**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.214	4	14	3	3	1	1	1	0	0

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
4	Lawrence Butler	L-R	6-3	210	7/10/00	**ATHLETICS**	**.234**	**152**	**569**	**83**	**133**	**21**	**63**	**59**	**179**	**22**
1	Denzel Clarke	R-R	6-4	220	5/1/00	**ATHLETICS**	**.230**	**47**	**148**	**18**	**34**	**3**	**8**	**6**	**61**	**6**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.280	32	107	26	30	0	21	23	30	7
26	Carlos Cortes	L-S	5-7	197	6/30/97	**ATHLETICS**	**.309**	**42**	**94**	**11**	**29**	**4**	**14**	**3**	**20**	**0**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.322	71	267	55	86	17	77	41	46	2
	Junior Perez	R-R	6-0	165	7/4/01	Las Vegas (AAA)	.298	42	151	37	45	12	34	30	49	11
						Midland (AA)	.201	95	339	50	68	14	53	57	116	16
25	Brent Rooker	R-R	6-3	225	11/1/94	**ATHLETICS**	**.262**	**162**	**626**	**92**	**164**	**30**	**89**	**65**	**155**	**6**
21	Tyler Soderstrom	L-R	6-2	200	11/24/01	**ATHLETICS**	**.276**	**158**	**561**	**75**	**155**	**25**	**93**	**55**	**141**	**8**
32	Colby Thomas	R-R	5-10	190	1/26/01	**ATHLETICS**	**.225**	**49**	**120**	**20**	**27**	**6**	**19**	**7**	**49**	**2**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.291	82	333	66	97	18	74	32	103	7

Houston ASTROS

2026 PREDICTION
2ND
AL WEST
2025 FINISH: 2ND (87-75)

For a team that spent the past decade as an American League force, was 2025 an aberration or the start of a decline? It is a question that will surround the Astros this season after they failed to make the playoffs last year for the first time since 2016, ending an eight-year streak that included two World Series titles and four AL pennants. Injuries factored into that result, and better health should buoy them. But the core of a lineup that performed erratically is a year older, and the starting rotation houses questions.

ROTATION

Hunter Brown cemented his status as Houston's ace with a third-place AL Cy Young finish in 2025. He's also the only pitcher the Astros return who threw at least 100 innings for them last season. Framber Valdez's foray into free agency left the club to figure out how to backfill those innings. Houston made a splash by signing Japanese righthander Tatsuya Imai. The Astros also traded for Mike Burrows and hope for a healthy season from Cristian Javier. Signing Ryan Weiss and Nate Pearson added depth, while Spencer Arrighetti, Lance McCullers Jr., Colton Gordon and Jason Alexander return after stints in last season's rotation. Prospects AJ Blubaugh and Miguel Ullola could help. Ronel Blanco and Hayden Wesneski, who had Tommy John surgeries last May, are not expected back until the second half at the earliest.

BULLPEN

Closer Josh Hader and setup man Bryan Abreu return as one of the toughest late-game duos in baseball. Hader looked dominant again last season, converting 28-of-29 save chances with a 2.05 ERA, before a capsule sprain in his left shoulder sidelined him in August. His absence threw the Astros' bullpen into disarray, but they expect him back healthy this spring. Bryan King and Bennett Sousa emerged as reliable options to help bridge games to Abreu, though Sousa also ended the season on the injured list with left elbow inflammation. Steven Okert, Enyel De Los Santos, Jayden Murray and Rule 5 draft pick Roddery Muñoz should be among the candidates for middle relief roles. The Astros were 71-4 when leading after seven innings in 2025, a formula they would love to repeat.

MIDDLE INFIELD

After years of tinkering with his swing mechanics and approach, shortstop Jeremy Peña enjoyed a breakthrough in 2025. Peña hit .304 with an .840 OPS and garnered his first All-Star selection. Injuries limited Peña to 125 games, but he showed he could be dynamic. Jose Altuve's move from second base to left field was a big storyline in spring training. But Altuve wound up making a team-high 61 starts at second — partly because nobody else claimed the job. Astros second basemen aside from Altuve combined for a .595 OPS. Altuve's .771 OPS marked his lowest in a full-length season since 2013, but he still hit 26 home runs. He could be part of another second base timeshare this year.

YORDAN ALVAREZ

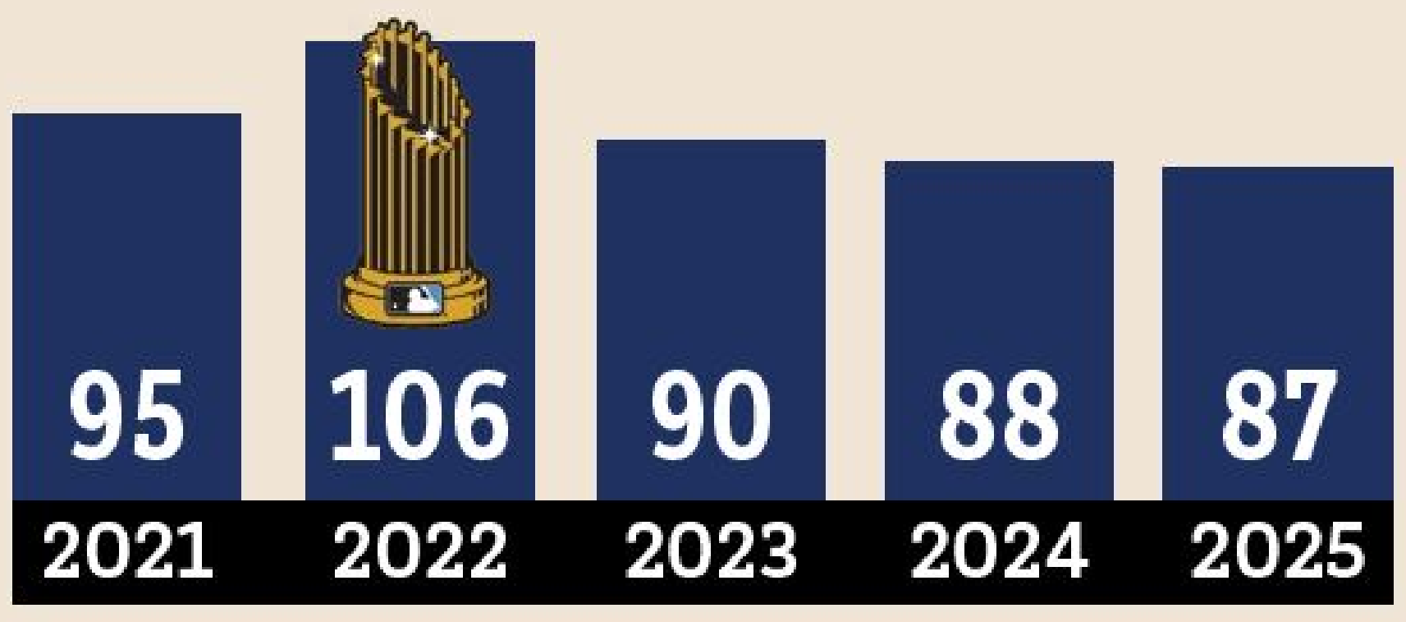
WILLIAM PURNELL-IMAGN IMAGES

Daikin Park

Opened: 2000 • Capacity: 41,168
Left: 315′ Center: 409′ Right: 326′
Tickets: 713-259-8000
mlb.com/ASTROS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Most infield hits in the AL, 2025

1.	Jake Mangum, Rays	32
2.	**Jeremy Peña, Astros**	**23**
3.	**Jose Altuve, Astros**	**22**
T4.	Randy Arozarena, Mariners	21
T4.	Yandy Díaz, Rays	21
T4.	Julio Rodríguez, Mariners	21

CORNERS

For the foreseeable future, third base belongs to Carlos Correa, who is signed through at least 2028. The longtime shortstop welcomed the move after rejoining Houston at the trade deadline, thinking it would help his longevity. The move displaced Isaac Paredes, sending the Astros into the offseason with an infield surplus. Paredes was one of their best hitters last season and impressed with his plate discipline and defense at third. Christian Walker underperformed in the first season of a three-year, $60 million deal, posting a .717 OPS with diminished defensive metrics at first base. Walker fared better as the season wore on, posting a .799 second-half OPS compared to .660 in the first half, but his home (.622 OPS) and road (.793) splits were stark.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

SS	Jeremy Peña (R)
DH	Yordan Alvarez (L)
LF	Jose Altuve (R)
2B	Isaac Paredes (R)
3B	Carlos Correa (R)
1B	Christian Walker (R)
RF	Jesús Sánchez (L)
C	Yainer Diaz (R)
CF	Zach Cole (L)

■ BENCH

C	César Salazar (L)
INF	Nick Allen (R)
INF	Brice Matthews (R)
OF	Cam Smith (R)

■ ROTATION

RHP	Hunter Brown
RHP	Tatsuya Imai
RHP	Cristian Javier
RHP	Mike Burrows
RHP	Spencer Arrighetti
RHP	Ryan Weiss

■ BULLPEN

LHP	Josh Hader (C)
RHP	Bryan Abreu
LHP	Bryan King
LHP	Bennett Sousa
LHP	Steven Okert
RHP	Nate Pearson
RHP	Roddery Muñoz

DALE ZANINE-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

JEREMY PEÑA

Astros outfielders combined to rank 25th out of 30 teams in OPS, tied for 28th in home runs and 29th in RBIs last season. A full-strength Yordan Alvarez could help in left field, but the Astros might limit his time there to keep him healthy. Altuve might draw starts in left field again. Jesús Sánchez cratered after arriving in Houston at the trade deadline, leaving his role unclear. Prospect Zach Cole opened eyes with his late-season debut and could push for time in center field, where Jake Meyers has been the incumbent. Cam Smith spent most of 2025 as the primary right fielder, but the second half of his rookie year was a struggle. Smith won't be guaranteed that job this spring, but the Astros hope he will bounce back.

CATCHING

Yainer Diaz returns as the primary catcher after an uneven 2025 campaign. Diaz, an offense-first catcher, posted a 92 OPS+ (a 100 OPS+ is MLB average), with that mark falling for a second straight season. He did hit 20 home runs, but he remains one of the league's freest swingers. Defensively, Diaz did not grade well in pitch framing or blocking by public metrics. But he and backup Victor Caratini did handle a pitching staff that ranked 11th in the majors in ERA (3.86) and second in strikeouts (1,504). Perhaps notably, the Astros will have a new catching coach, Tim Cossins, this year. Caratini became a free agent after last season. César Salazar could compete for a backup job in camp with any new arrivals.

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE ASTROS "Houston's always going to be a tough, quality organization. Even though it didn't work, I love that they went for it and brought Carlos Correa back. He stayed on the field last year, and his performance ticked up with the Astros. Jose Altuve is their heart and soul, but Jeremy Peña's their best player. He gives me Derek Jeter vibes, just the way he goes about his business and the fact that he can beat you in a lot of different ways. Christian Walker had a down year, but he still hit for power, and he's a tough out — pitchers don't want to see him in a big situation. And don't forget about Yordan Alvarez; when he's healthy, he's one of the best hitters in baseball. Josh Hader and Bryan Abreu might be the best late-inning duo in the game. Abreu is a dog, in a good way. Hunter Brown is the ace, and Tatsuya Imai is an intriguing addition, but after them there's a lot of questions. Cristian Javier's back, but he was a shadow of the good Javier — just another guy. They'll have a lot of options for the rotation to look at in spring training."

DH/BENCH

Alvarez played in only 48 games due to injuries last season. Relatedly, the Astros ranked 26th in OPS (.666) at the DH spot. That should improve solely due to more at-bats from Alvarez, who appeared to be over the right hand fracture that cost him 100 games by September. Even if Alvarez gets most of the DH at-bats, the Astros may need to budget some for Altuve, who will turn 36 in May and posted his best numbers in 2025 as a designated hitter. The Astros traded super-utilityman Mauricio Dubón to the Atlanta Braves for Nick Allen, who profiles as a reserve infielder. If younger players like Smith, Cole, infielder Brice Matthews and outfielder Zach Dezenzo don't win larger roles in camp, they could become bench options.

MANAGEMENT

Manager Joe Espada and general manager Dana Brown faced job status questions in the immediate wake of Houston missing the playoffs last year. The Astros soon announced that both would return for 2026, but those questions will intensify unless the team finds its way back to the postseason. Espada did an admirable job of navigating the Astros through their injury issues to fall one win short of a playoff berth in his second season at the helm. Houston is 175-148 under his guidance. Brown, entering his fourth season as GM, must balance an aging core and a farm system rated among baseball's thinnest in constructing the roster. This will be an important season for both men.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Astros had the majors' second-highest winning percentage last season when scoring four or more runs. They also scored four-plus runs less often than all but four other teams. More offense is the clearest road to improvement for a team that won 87 games last year despite its shortcomings. The lineup returns largely intact, and team officials have said that re-establishing an offensive identity will be a focus after their approach became an issue. Even before any changes, Brown declared at the start of the offseason: "I think we have a really good team. If we stay healthy, we will for sure be back in the dance in October."

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

SWING CHANGES The Astros effected a "complete overhaul" of their major-league hitting staff, in general manager Dana Brown's words, after a 2025 season in which they had one of baseball's least disciplined lineups. Former hitting coaches Alex Cintrón and Troy Snitker were not retained. Houston hired Victor Rodriguez and Anthony Iapoce as lead hitting and assistant hitting coach, respectively, and promoted Dan Hennigan to director of hitting and offensive coordinator. Astros hitters owned the majors' second-highest chase rate (34.0%) and third-highest swing rate (48.9%) last season, trends the club intends to improve.

ALTUVE'S ROAD Jose Altuve will start this season with 2,388 career hits. The face of Houston's franchise is signed through 2029 and would need to average 153 hits over the next four seasons to reach 3,000 hits by the end of his contract. Altuve, who will turn 36 in May, had 156 hits last year and has amassed at least that many in every major-league season in which he has played at least 130 games. Only Freddie Freeman (2,431 hits) will begin 2026 with more hits among active players.

HEALTH NEEDED Twenty-six different players spent time on the Astros' injured list in 2025. No team lost more projected wins above replacement to the IL, according to FanGraphs. After the season, Houston did not renew the contracts of its head trainer or the assistant GM who oversaw sports medicine and performance. Brown vowed that the team would take "a deep look" at its return-to-play procedures in the winter and said keeping players healthy is "something that we're taking a lot of pride in this year."

Schedule

🟧 HOME ⬜ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 🟧 LAA	27 🟧 LAA	28 🟧 LAA
29 🟧 LAA	30 🟧 BOS	31 🟧 BOS	1 🟧 BOS	2	3 ⬜ A’s	4 ⬜ A’s
5 ⬜ A’s	6 ⬜ COL	7 ⬜ COL	8 ⬜ COL	9	10 ⬜ SEA	11 ⬜ SEA
12 ⬜ SEA	13 ⬜ SEA	14 🟧 COL	15 🟧 COL	16 🟧 COL	17 🟧 STL	18 🟧 STL
19 🟧 STL	20 ⬜ CLE	21 ⬜ CLE	22 ⬜ CLE	23	24 🟧 NYY	25 🟧 NYY
26 🟧 NYY	27	28 ⬜ BAL	29 ⬜ BAL	30 ⬜ BAL		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ⬜ BOS	2 ⬜ BOS
3 ⬜ BOS	4 🟧 LAD	5 🟧 LAD	6 🟧 LAD	7	8 ⬜ CIN	9 ⬜ CIN
10 ⬜ CIN	11 🟧 SEA	12 🟧 SEA	13 🟧 SEA	14 🟧 SEA	15 🟧 TEX	16 🟧 TEX
17 🟧 TEX	18 ⬜ MIN	19 ⬜ MIN	20 ⬜ MIN	21	22 ⬜ CHC	23 ⬜ CHC
24 ⬜ CHC	25 ⬜ TEX	26 ⬜ TEX	27 ⬜ TEX	28 ⬜ TEX	29 🟧 MIL	30 🟧 MIL
31 🟧 MIL						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2 🟧 PIT	3 🟧 PIT	4 🟧 PIT	5 🟧 A’s	6 🟧 A’s
7 🟧 A’s	8 ⬜ LAA	9 ⬜ LAA	10 ⬜ LAA	11	12 ⬜ KC	13 ⬜ KC
14 ⬜ KC	15 🟧 DET	16 🟧 DET	17 🟧 DET	18	19 🟧 CLE	20 🟧 CLE
21 🟧 CLE	22 ⬜ TOR	23 ⬜ TOR	24 ⬜ TOR	25 ⬜ DET	26 ⬜ DET	27 ⬜ DET
28 ⬜ DET	29 🟧 MIN	30 🟧 MIN				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 🟧 MIN	2	3 🟧 TB	4 🟧 TB
5 🟧 TB	6 ⬜ WAS	7 ⬜ WAS	8 ⬜ WAS	9	10 ⬜ TEX	11 ⬜ TEX
12 ⬜ TEX	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 🟧 BAL	18 🟧 BAL
19 🟧 BAL	20 🟧 MIA	21 🟧 MIA	22 🟧 MIA	23	24 ⬜ CWS	25 ⬜ CWS
26 ⬜ CWS	27 ⬜ LAA	28 ⬜ LAA	29 ⬜ LAA	30	31 🟧 TEX	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 🟧 TEX
2 🟧 TEX	3 🟧 TOR	4 🟧 TOR	5 🟧 TOR	6	7 ⬜ SD	8 ⬜ SD
9 ⬜ SD	10 ⬜ SF	11 ⬜ SF	12 ⬜ SF	13	14 🟧 SEA	15 🟧 SEA
16 🟧 SEA	17	18 🟧 LAA	19 🟧 LAA	20 🟧 LAA	21 🟧 A’s	22 🟧 A’s
23 🟧 A’s	24	25 ⬜ NYY	26 ⬜ NYY	27 ⬜ NYY	28 ⬜ NYM	29 ⬜ NYM
30 ⬜ NYM	31 🟧 CWS					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 🟧 CWS	2 🟧 CWS	3 🟧 CWS	4 🟧 ARI	5 🟧 ARI
6 🟧 ARI	7	8 ⬜ PHI	9 ⬜ PHI	10 ⬜ PHI	11 ⬜ TB	12 ⬜ TB
13 ⬜ TB	14	15 🟧 KC	16 🟧 KC	17 🟧 KC	18 🟧 ATL	19 🟧 ATL
20 🟧 ATL	21	22 ⬜ SEA	23 ⬜ SEA	24 ⬜ A’s	25 ⬜ A’s	26 ⬜ A’s
27 ⬜ A’s	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

4.23 Runs scored per game by the Astros last season, 21st in the majors, their lowest such ranking since a 92-loss campaign in 2014.

◆

15 Starting pitchers used by Houston last year, second-most in a season in team history to the 1965 club, largely a result of injuries.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

MARK J. REBILAS-IMAGN IMAGES

1. Brice Matthews, INF (24) Houston's readiest infield prospect must make more contact than in his brief 2025 debut.

2. Xavier Neyens, INF (19) 2025 first-round pick touted for potential power and strike zone awareness.

3. AJ Blubaugh, RHP (25) Shone as a bulk reliever/spot starter with the Astros down the 2025 stretch.

4. Walker Janek, C (23) Defense-first receiver and 2024 first-rounder spent his first full season at High-A.

5. Kevin Alvarez, OF (18) Signed for $2 million, left-handed hitter had a strong introduction to rookie ball.

6. Ethan Pecko, RHP (23) Product of Astros pitching development could provide major-league depth this year.

7. Miguel Ullola, RHP (23) High strikeout and walk numbers mark his path to the cusp of the majors.

8. Ethan Frey, OF (22) Astros believe the 6-foot-6 third-round 2025 pick has "some big boy juice."

9. Bryce Mayer, RHP (24) Named the organization's Minor League Pitcher of the Year in 2025.

10. Alimber Santa, RHP (22) Had a 2.31 ERA in 70 relief innings and reached Triple-A last season.

Astros Roster

General Manager: Dana Brown • **Manager:** Joe Espada • **Coaches:** Jason Bell (field coordinator/outfield), Dave Clark (first base), Anthony Iapoce (asst. hitting), Ethan Katz (asst. pitching), Tommy Kawamura (game planning), Omar López (bench), Joshua Miller (pitching), Tony Perezchica (third base), Victor Rodríguez (hitting)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
52	Bryan Abreu	R-R	6-1	230	4/22/97	**HOUSTON**	3-4	2.28	70	0	7	71.0	51	31	105
54	Jason Alexander	R-R	6-2	227	3/1/93	**HOUSTON**	4-2	3.66	14	13	1	71.1	68	21	60
						Sugar Land (AAA)	5-0	1.69	8	7	0	42.2	32	21	36
						ATHLETICS	0-0	18.00	4	0	0	6.0	12	5	5
						Las Vegas (AAA)	1-0	1.27	5	5	0	21.1	17	8	21
41	Spencer Arrighetti	R-R	6-2	186	1/2/00	**HOUSTON**	1-5	5.35	7	7	0	35.1	30	20	31
						Sugar Land (AAA)	0-1	9.64	1	1	0	4.2	6	4	5
						Corpus Christi (AA)	0-1	2.84	2	2	0	6.1	5	1	6
56	Ronel Blanco	R-R	6-3	265	8/31/93	**HOUSTON**	3-4	4.10	9	9	0	48.1	37	20	48
69	AJ Blubaugh	R-R	6-2	190	7/4/00	**HOUSTON**	3-1	1.69	11	3	0	32.0	17	11	35
						Sugar Land (AAA)	5-8	5.27	22	19	2	99.0	97	58	101
58	Hunter Brown	R-R	6-2	220	8/29/98	**HOUSTON**	12-9	2.43	31	31	0	185.1	133	57	206
	Mike Burrows	R-R	6-1	200	11/8/99	**PITTSBURGH**	2-4	3.94	23	19	0	96.0	88	31	97
						Indianapolis (AAA)	2-1	2.51	8	7	0	32.1	23	11	41
65	Enyel De Los Santos	R-R	6-3	235	12/25/95	**HOUSTON**	3-0	4.03	22	0	0	22.1	22	6	24
						ATLANTA	3-3	4.53	43	0	0	43.2	39	18	38
68	J.P. France	R-R	6-0	198	4/4/95	**HOUSTON**	1-0	2.25	2	0	0	4.0	2	2	5
						Sugar Land (AAA)	2-1	6.38	7	4	0	24.0	18	20	23
						Corpus Christi (AA)	0-1	13.50	1	1	0	2.0	5	1	3
						FCL Astros (R)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.1	2	1	2
61	Colton Gordon	L-L	6-4	225	12/20/98	**HOUSTON**	6-4	5.34	20	14	1	86.0	103	19	72
						Sugar Land (AAA)	4-2	3.38	11	11	0	56.0	59	16	56
71	Josh Hader	L-L	6-3	188	4/7/94	**HOUSTON**	6-2	2.05	48	0	28	52.2	29	16	76
45	Tatsuya Imai	R-R	5-11	154	5/9/98	Seibu Lions (Japan)	10-5	1.92	24	NA	0	163.2	101	45	178
53	Cristian Javier	R-R	6-1	210	3/26/97	**HOUSTON**	2-4	4.62	8	8	0	37.0	32	15	34
						Sugar Land (AAA)	0-0	4.66	3	3	0	9.2	7	10	10
						Corpus Christi (AA)	0-0	3.00	1	1	0	3.0	2	2	3
						FCL Astros (R)	0-1	13.50	1	1	0	1.1	1	3	2
74	Bryan King	R-L	6-1	205	11/5/96	**HOUSTON**	5-4	2.78	68	0	2	68.0	60	11	69
43	Lance McCullers Jr.	L-R	6-1	200	10/2/93	**HOUSTON**	2-5	6.51	16	13	0	55.1	61	39	61
						Sugar Land (AAA)	1-0	2.45	3	3	0	11.0	7	4	13
						Corpus Christi (AA)	0-1	2.70	2	2	0	6.2	7	4	8
	Roddery Muñoz	R-R	6-2	210	4/14/00	**ST. LOUIS**	0-0	8.18	9	0	0	11.0	9	9	14
						Memphis (AAA)	4-3	3.28	38	0	3	57.2	46	30	76
70	Jayden Murray	R-R	6-1	190	4/11/97	**HOUSTON**	0-0	1.54	9	1	0	11.2	10	3	8
						Sugar Land (AAA)	1-2	4.64	50	0	3	64.0	55	30	66
48	Steven Okert	L-L	6-2	202	7/9/91	**HOUSTON**	3-2	3.01	68	1	1	71.2	45	19	84
	Nate Pearson	R-R	6-6	255	8/20/96	**CHICAGO NL**	0-1	9.20	11	0	0	14.2	22	10	7
						Iowa (AAA)	3-2	2.22	38	1	7	44.2	27	24	57
62	Bennett Sousa	L-L	6-3	220	4/6/95	**HOUSTON**	5-1	2.84	44	0	4	50.2	37	15	59
						Sugar Land (AAA)	0-0	0.00	4	0	0	5.0	2	0	5
	Miguel Ullola	R-R	6-1	205	6/19/02	Sugar Land (AAA)	7-6	3.88	28	23	1	113.2	75	78	131
60	Brandon Walter	L-L	6-2	201	9/8/96	**HOUSTON**	1-3	3.35	9	9	0	53.2	46	4	52
						Sugar Land (AAA)	3-1	2.08	11	7	0	47.2	29	7	49
	Ryan Weiss	R-R	6-4	210	12/10/96	Hanwha Eagles (Korea)	16-5	2.87	30	30	0	178.2	127	56	207
39	Hayden Wesneski	R-R	6-3	210	12/5/97	**HOUSTON**	1-3	4.50	6	6	0	32.0	29	6	29

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
21	Yainer Diaz	R-R	5-11	195	9/21/98	**HOUSTON**	.256	143	542	56	139	20	70	20	95	1
18	César Salazar	L-R	5-9	198	3/15/96	**HOUSTON**	.231	11	13	0	3	0	1	2	2	0
						Sugar Land (AAA)	.213	47	150	21	32	5	18	24	32	2

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Nick Allen	R-R	5-8	166	10/8/98	**ATLANTA**	.221	135	371	32	82	0	22	31	99	8
1	Carlos Correa	R-R	6-3	220	9/22/94	**HOUSTON**	.290	51	200	23	58	6	21	19	45	0
						MINNESOTA	.267	93	337	40	90	7	31	26	68	0
28	Brice Matthews	R-R	5-11	190	3/16/02	**HOUSTON**	.167	13	42	6	7	4	9	2	20	1
						Sugar Land (AAA)	.260	112	419	70	109	17	64	70	139	41
15	Isaac Paredes	R-R	5-11	213	2/18/99	**HOUSTON**	.254	102	378	53	96	20	53	50	76	0
3	Jeremy Peña	R-R	6-1	202	9/22/97	**HOUSTON**	.304	125	493	68	150	17	62	35	93	20
						Sugar Land (AAA)	.167	2	6	3	1	1	1	1	2	0
8	Christian Walker	R-R	5-11	208	3/28/91	**HOUSTON**	.238	154	585	72	139	27	88	40	177	2

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
27	Jose Altuve	R-R	5-6	167	5/6/90	**HOUSTON**	.265	155	588	80	156	26	77	55	109	10
44	Yordan Alvarez	L-R	6-4	237	6/27/97	**HOUSTON**	.273	48	165	17	45	6	27	28	33	1
						Corpus Christi (AA)	.467	4	15	4	7	0	4	2	3	1
16	Zach Cole	L-R	6-2	190	8/4/00	**HOUSTON**	.255	15	47	9	12	4	11	5	20	3
						Sugar Land (AAA)	.353	15	51	9	18	5	16	10	17	3
						Corpus Christi (AA)	.267	82	307	54	82	14	49	42	129	15
9	Zach Dezenzo	R-R	6-5	220	5/11/00	**HOUSTON**	.245	34	98	17	24	2	10	11	37	1
						Sugar Land (AAA)	.192	7	26	4	5	2	5	0	6	0
6	Jake Meyers	R-L	6-0	200	6/18/96	**HOUSTON**	.292	104	343	53	100	3	24	31	67	16
						Sugar Land (AAA)	.222	6	18	3	4	0	1	5	2	0
4	Jesús Sánchez	L-R	6-4	222	10/7/97	**HOUSTON**	.199	48	146	21	29	4	12	13	40	4
						MIAMI	.256	86	305	40	78	10	36	29	70	9
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.300	3	10	2	3	0	0	1	3	1
11	Cam Smith	R-R	6-3	224	2/22/03	**HOUSTON**	.236	134	441	55	104	9	51	43	137	8
10	Shay Whitcomb	R-R	6-1	202	9/28/98	**HOUSTON**	.125	20	32	4	4	1	1	0	10	0
						Sugar Land (AAA)	.267	107	405	68	108	25	64	52	120	16

Los Angeles ANGELS

2026 PREDICTION
5TH
AL WEST
2025 FINISH: 5TH (72-90)

The Los Angeles Angels have not qualified for the postseason since they won the American League West in 2014, the longest active postseason drought in MLB. They haven't had a winning record since 2015 and have lost 90 games or more each of the past two seasons.

Kurt Suzuki became the franchise's seventh manager in that run of futility when he was hired in October to replace interim manager Ray Montgomery (who took over for Ron Washington). Tellingly, Suzuki was given just a one-year contract. Not coincidentally, general manager Perry Minasian is entering the final year of his contract in 2026. It seems much more likely that the two will head out the door together following the 2026 season — signaling yet another return to square one — than lead a turnaround. An organization that couldn't make the playoffs with two of the best players of their generation (Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout) now has a serious shortage of talent.

ROTATION

The Angels signed lefthander Yusei Kikuchi to a three-year, $64 million contract before the 2025 season, and he proved to be solid and reliable enough. José Soriano is also back after providing occasional brilliance but a lack of consistency. Minasian spent the winter trying to fill out a rotation around that duo by taking low-cost gambles. He acquired Grayson Rodriguez from the Baltimore Orioles in a trade for outfielder Taylor Ward. Once a highly ranked prospect, Rodriguez went 13-4 with a 3.86 ERA two seasons ago, but he hasn't pitched since July 2024 due to arm and shoulder issues (including surgery to remove bone chips last August). Righthander Alek Manoah signed a one-year, $1.95 million contract. The 28-year-old Manoah finished third in the AL Cy Young voting after going 16-7 with the Toronto Blue Jays in 2022, but he has regressed badly since then and spent last year in the minors. The Angels' plan also includes moving Reid Detmers, who spent last season in the bullpen, back into a starting role.

BULLPEN

Minasian's low-cost winter extended to the bullpen, where he signed three veterans — lefty Drew Pomeranz and righthanders Kirby Yates and Jordan Romano — to free-agent contracts totaling $11 million. Pomeranz returned to the majors for the first time since 2021 and had a good season with the Chicago Cubs in 2025, posting a 2.17 ERA and holding left-handed hitters to a .176 average. Romano, meanwhile, was an All-Star for the Toronto Blue Jays in 2022 and '23 but has yet to regain that form since elbow surgery in 2024. Yates seemed headed for retirement after posting a 5.23 ERA with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2025 and missing their postseason run with a right hamstring strain, but he returns for another season at 39. The Angels would like Robert Stephenson or Ben Joyce to step forward and assume the closer role, but both were injured and limited to a combined 14.1 innings in 2025. Joyce is an interesting wild card. He averaged 102.1 mph on his fastball in 2024 and topped out at 105.5 mph — the third-fastest pitch thrown since pitch-tracking started in 2008.

MIKE TROUT

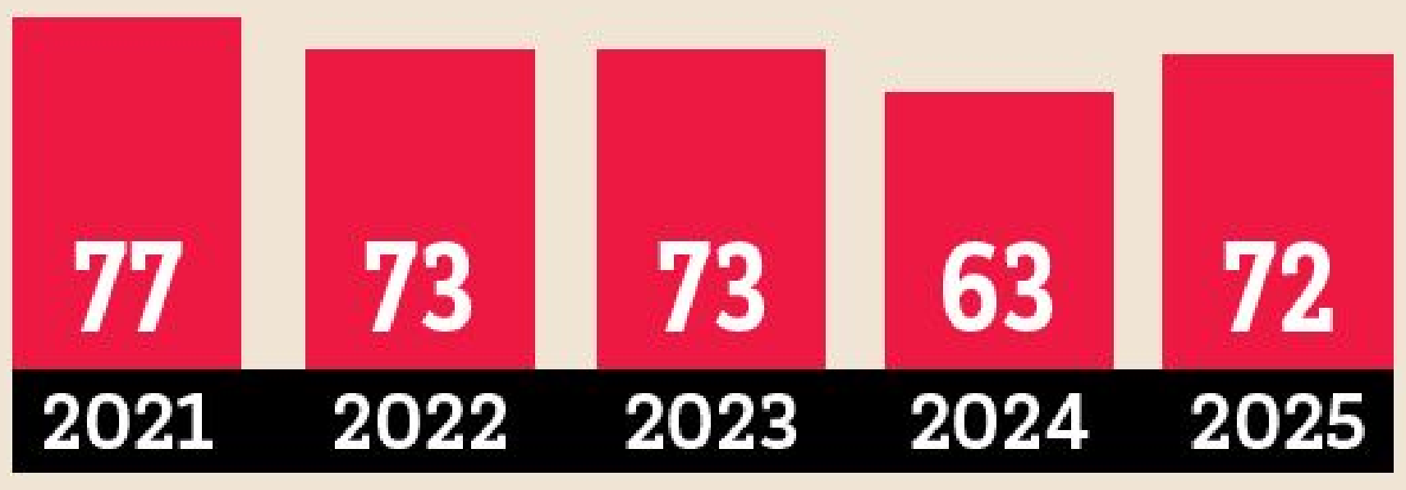
JAY BIGGERSTAFF-IMAGN IMAGES

Angel Stadium

Opened: 1966 • Capacity: 45,517
Left: 347′ Center: 396′ Right: 350′
Tickets: 888-796-4256
mlb.com/ANGELS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



◆

Statline

Highest single-season ground ball rate, minimum 100 IP, 2023-25

1. José Soriano, Angels, 2025	**65.3%**
2. Logan Webb, Giants, 2023	62.1%
3. Andre Pallante, Cardinals, 2024	61.8%
4. Framber Valdez, Astros, 2024	60.6%
5. José Soriano, Angels, 2024	**59.7%**

MIDDLE INFIELD

Shortstop Zach Neto has been a shining light in dark times for the franchise. The 25-year-old rebounded from a shoulder injury late in 2024 to hit .257 with 26 home runs and 62 RBIs in 2025. His .793 OPS was second on the team behind Mike Trout (.797). In the Angels' dreams, Christian Moore would blossom in the same way and give the team a dynamic pair of young players up the middle. A first-round pick in 2024, Moore flew through the Angels' thin farm system, hitting .292 with an .853 OPS in a brief stint at Triple-A and encouraging the Angels with his potential.

CORNERS

Signing Anthony Rendon to a seven-year, $245 million contract in December 2019 was supposed to fix a persistent problem at third base. But that now stands as one of the worst free-agent signings in franchise history — and it's not a short list. The search for an answer continues into 2026. Yoán Moncada and Luis Rengifo made the most starts at third in 2025, but both became free agents when the season ended. This year's contenders include a collection of utilitymen like Vaughn Grissom and Oswald Peraza. On a team that had the lowest batting average in MLB last season (.225), first baseman Nolan Schanuel stood tallest with a team-leading .264 average. His lack of power, however, is notable at the position.

ZACH NETO

PETER AIKEN-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

Joe Adell led the Angels with 37 home runs while driving in 98 last season. He is the only certainty in the Angels' outfield picture. During the winter, the Angels made noises about playing Trout in the outfield more often. Coming back from a knee injury that limited him to 29 games in 2024, Trout played 130 games in 2025 — his highest total since 2019. But only 22 of those included playing in the outfield. Pushing the 34-year-old Trout to play the field more often seems to have more risk than reward. If Trout is largely a DH again, that would mean playing Jorge Soler in the field, though he's also better suited to DH. Soler's 2025 season ended in late July due to a back injury. The Angels would like to use Trout or Adell in center field on a fairly regular basis. If not, Bryce Teodosio offers an outstanding glove but little offensive upside.

CATCHING

After a 20-homer season in 2024 (his first full season in the majors), Logan O'Hoppe appeared to be a key building block. That sentiment seemed justified

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

SS	Zach Neto (R)
1B	Nolan Schanuel (L)
DH	Mike Trout (R)
LF	Jorge Soler (R)
RF	Jo Adell (R)
C	Logan O'Hoppe (R)
2B	Christian Moore (R)
3B	Vaughn Grissom (R)
CF	Bryce Teodosio (R)

■ BENCH

INF	Oswald Peraza (R)
C	Travis d'Arnaud (R)
OF	Matthew Lugo (R)
INF	Denzer Guzman (R)

■ ROTATION

LHP	Yusei Kikuchi
RHP	José Soriano
LHP	Grayson Rodriguez
LHP	Reid Detmers
RHP	Alek Manoah

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Robert Stephenson (C)
RHP	Ben Joyce
RHP	Ryan Zeferjahn
RHP	Jordan Romano
LHP	Drew Pomeranz
LHP	Brock Burke
RHP	Chase Silseth
RHP	Kirby Yates

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE ANGELS "What a weird team. They sell out for homers, but that's all they do. They basically don't get any other hits, and they strike out all the time. That's kind of what Mike Trout has become, but pitchers still respect him, so he still gets a lot of walks. Nolan Schanuel has a good eye, too, but nobody else really does. I do like Zach Neto a lot; he's their best player, by far. Their offseason additions are mostly wishful thinking — Alek Manoah and Grayson Rodriguez didn't even pitch last season, and Jordan Romano was a mess in Philadelphia. Yusei Kikuchi is good, but you can get to him because he's soft-friendly and gets really predictable. The pitcher to watch there is José Soriano. Any given night, he's as good as anyone in the world. That sinker is so good, when he's at his best, you could put an All-Star team out there and they wouldn't touch him. The trouble is, he can't repeat it from start to start, so you look up at the end of the year and he's league-average."

when O'Hoppe hit 17 home runs before the end of June. The rest of the season, however, was a big step back. O'Hoppe hit only two homers after June and batted .182 after the All-Star break. O'Hoppe admitted he struggled with his confidence both offensively and defensively. Veteran Travis d'Arnaud returns, but the Angels are committed to giving O'Hoppe a chance to re-establish himself.

DH/BENCH

Trout returned to the Angels' lineup on a regular basis, primarily as their DH. But he did not return to his previous levels of production. He hit just .232 with a .797 OPS (still tops on the team). A bounce-back season in 2026 would go a long way toward improving the Angels' outlook. Solving the Trout-Soler puzzle is crucial for the Angels, whose weak offense needs both of their bats in the lineup on a daily basis. Meanwhile, a weak bench would improve if the Angels found better every-day solutions at third base and center field, moving Grissom and Teodosio into reserve roles.

MANAGEMENT

Entering his sixth season as GM, Minasian has made few positive strides in rebuilding the team's farm system and returning the major-league club to contention. The roster offers little hope for anything more than occasional bursts of competitiveness. After being linked to candidates like Albert Pujols, Brandon Hyde, Rocco Baldelli, Torii Hunter and Nick Hundley, the Angels made the uninspiring choice of Suzuki as manager. Even more troubling, they gave the first-time manager just a one-year contract.

FINAL ANALYSIS

Since their last division title (2014), the Angels have wasted six years of Shohei Ohtani and the prime years of Mike Trout while fielding less and less competitive teams. The best chance to break the freefall probably disappeared when owner Arte Moreno solicited bids but decided not to sell the team before the 2023 season. The building blocks of a turnaround remain unapparent in Anaheim, and a third consecutive 90-loss season seems inevitable.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

MONEY POORLY SPENT The Angels reached an agreement on a restructuring of the final year of Anthony Rendon's contract. One of the biggest free-agent busts in recent history, Rendon signed a seven-year, $245 million contract following the 2019 season but has played a total of only 257 games over the first six seasons of the deal. He missed the entire 2025 season recovering from hip surgery. The 35-year-old Rendon will receive the final $38.5 million of his contract via deferred payments over the next three to five years. Rendon is not retiring and will remain on the Angels' roster in 2026, most likely on the 60-day injured list.

COACHING CHANGES First-time manager Kurt Suzuki was allowed to completely revamp the Angels' coaching staff heading into the 2026 season. The group includes former Toronto Blue Jays manager John Gibbons as bench coach and former Texas Rangers, Washington Nationals and St. Louis Cardinals pitching coach Mike Maddux in that role. Rounding out the coaching staff are former All-Star Brady Anderson as hitting coach, John Mabry as assistant hitting coach, Adam Eaton (the outfielder) as first-base coach, Keith Johnson as third-base coach, Max Stassi as catching instructor, Andy Schatzley as infield coach, Darryl Scott as assistant pitching coach and Dom Chiti as bullpen coach.

DRAFT DAY Despite finishing with the seventh-worst record in MLB last season, the Angels will not pick until 12th in the 2026 MLB Draft. They were not eligible for the draft lottery this year because they are considered a "payor club" — they give rather than receive revenue-sharing dollars from MLB. Payor clubs are not eligible to have lottery picks in consecutive years. The Angels picked second in the 2025 draft.

Schedule

🟥 HOME ⬜ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 ⬜ HOU	27 ⬜ HOU	28 ⬜ HOU
29 ⬜ HOU	30 ⬜ CHC	31 ⬜ CHC	1 ⬜ CHC	2	3 🟥 SEA	4 🟥 SEA
5 🟥 SEA	6 🟥 ATL	7 🟥 ATL	8 🟥 ATL	9	10 ⬜ CIN	11 ⬜ CIN
12 ⬜ CIN	13 ⬜ NYY	14 ⬜ NYY	15 ⬜ NYY	16 ⬜ NYY	17 🟥 SD	18 🟥 SD
19 🟥 SD	20 🟥 TOR	21 🟥 TOR	22 🟥 TOR	23	24 ⬜ KC	25 ⬜ KC
26 ⬜ KC	27 ⬜ CWS	28 ⬜ CWS	29 ⬜ CWS	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 🟥 NYM	2 🟥 NYM
3 🟥 NYM	4 🟥 CWS	5 🟥 CWS	6 🟥 CWS	7	8 ⬜ TOR	9 ⬜ TOR
10 ⬜ TOR	11 ⬜ CLE	12 ⬜ CLE	13 ⬜ CLE	14	15 🟥 LAD	16 🟥 LAD
17 🟥 LAD	18 🟥 A's	19 🟥 A's	20 🟥 A's	21 🟥 A's	22 🟥 TEX	23 🟥 TEX
24 🟥 TEX	25	26 ⬜ DET	27 ⬜ DET	28 ⬜ DET	29 ⬜ TB	30 ⬜ TB
31 ⬜ TB						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 🟥 COL	2 🟥 COL	3 🟥 COL	4	5 ⬜ LAD	6 ⬜ LAD
7 ⬜ LAD	8 🟥 HOU	9 🟥 HOU	10 🟥 HOU	11	12 🟥 TB	13 🟥 TB
14 🟥 TB	15 ⬜ ARI	16 ⬜ ARI	17 ⬜ ARI	18 ⬜ A's	19 ⬜ A's	20 ⬜ A's
21 ⬜ A's	22 🟥 BAL	23 🟥 BAL	24 🟥 BAL	25	26 🟥 A's	27 🟥 A's
28 🟥 A's	29 ⬜ SEA	30 ⬜ SEA				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2 ⬜ SEA	3 🟥 BOS	4 🟥 BOS
5 🟥 BOS	6	7 ⬜ TEX	8 ⬜ TEX	9 ⬜ TEX	10 ⬜ MIN	11 ⬜ MIN
12 ⬜ MIN	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 🟥 DET	18 🟥 DET
19 🟥 DET	20 🟥 STL	21 🟥 STL	22 🟥 STL	23	24 ⬜ SF	25 ⬜ SF
26 ⬜ SF	27 🟥 HOU	28 🟥 HOU	29 🟥 HOU	30	31 🟥 MIL	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 🟥 MIL
2 🟥 MIL	3	4 ⬜ BAL	5 ⬜ BAL	6 ⬜ BAL	7 ⬜ MIA	8 ⬜ MIA
9 ⬜ MIA	10 🟥 TEX	11 🟥 TEX	12 🟥 TEX	13 🟥 TEX	14 🟥 KC	15 🟥 KC
16 🟥 KC	17	18 ⬜ HOU	19 ⬜ HOU	20 ⬜ HOU	21 ⬜ TEX	22 ⬜ TEX
23 ⬜ TEX	24 🟥 CLE	25 🟥 CLE	26 🟥 CLE	27	28 🟥 PHI	29 🟥 PHI
30 🟥 PHI	31 🟥 NYY					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 🟥 NYY	2 🟥 NYY	3	4 ⬜ PIT	5 ⬜ PIT
6 ⬜ PIT	7 ⬜ BOS	8 ⬜ BOS	9 ⬜ BOS	10	11 ⬜ WAS	12 ⬜ WAS
13 ⬜ WAS	14 🟥 SEA	15 🟥 SEA	16 🟥 SEA	17 🟥 MIN	18 🟥 MIN	19 🟥 MIN
20 🟥 MIN	21	22 ⬜ A's	23 ⬜ A's	24 ⬜ SEA	25 ⬜ SEA	26 ⬜ SEA
27 ⬜ SEA	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

130 Games played by Mike Trout in 2025, his most since 2019 (134)

◆

3.9 Total WAR produced by Anthony Rendon in five seasons with the Angels (he had 30.3 in seven seasons with the Washington Nationals).

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

Gauchos
25
REMNER

- **1. Tyler Bremner, RHP (21) The second overall pick in last year's draft, Bremner possesses an impressive changeup and sharp command.**

2. Ryan Johnson, RHP (23) A 6-foot-6 righty with a deceptive delivery, Johnson made his big-league debut last March.

3. George Klassen, RHP (24) Acquired from the Phillies in a 2024 trade, Klassen got roughed up at Double-A last season.

4. Johnny Slawinski, LHP (18) One of the better left-handed pitching prospects in the 2025 draft.

5. Nelson Rada, OF (20) The team's top position player prospect hit .323 in 42 Triple-A games in 2025.

6. Chase Shores, RHP (21) Another 2025 draftee, Shores underwent Tommy John surgery during his time at LSU.

7. Joswa Lugo, SS (19) Lugo was a big signing for the Angels in the 2024 international class.

8. Gabriel Davalillo, C (18) Another top international signing, Davalillo projects as a good-hitting catcher.

9. Denzer Guzman, SS (22) Touched the majors last year and could compete for a spot on Angels' bench.

10. Sam Aldegheri, RHP (24) Aldegheri has gotten big-league time each of the past two seasons.

BRETT DAVIS-IMAGN IMAGES

Angels Roster

General Manager: Perry Minasian • **Manager:** Kurt Suzuki • **Coaches:** Brady Anderson (hitting), Dom Chiti (bullpen), Adam Eaton (first base/outfield), Derek Florko (asst. hitting), John Gibbons (bench), Keith Johnson (third base), John Mabry (asst. hitting), Mike Maddux (pitching), Andy Schatzley (infield), Darryl Scott (asst. pitching), Max Stassi (catching)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
61	Sam Aldegheri	L-L	6-1	210	9/19/01	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**0-2**	**7.90**	**4**	**2**	**0**	**13.2**	**20**	**10**	**12**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	0-0	5.40	1	1	0	5.0	5	2	3
						Rocket City (AA)	8-8	3.72	23	23	0	128.1	116	58	110
40	Sam Bachman	R-R	6-1	235	9/30/99	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**2-3**	**6.20**	**23**	**0**	**0**	**20.1**	**22**	**10**	**18**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	1-1	0.71	24	0	5	25.1	19	16	24
						Inland Empire (A)	0-0	0.00	2	0	0	2.0	1	1	3
46	Brock Burke	L-L	6-4	210	8/4/96	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**7-1**	**3.36**	**69**	**1**	**0**	**61.2**	**58**	**18**	**52**
36	Caden Dana	L-R	6-4	215	12/17/03	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**0-4**	**6.40**	**7**	**5**	**0**	**32.1**	**30**	**18**	**33**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	6-9	5.93	18	18	0	82.0	84	46	85
48	Reid Detmers	L-L	6-2	210	7/8/99	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**5-3**	**3.96**	**61**	**0**	**3**	**63.2**	**58**	**25**	**80**
70	Mitch Farris	L-L	6-2	195	2/14/01	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**1-3**	**6.66**	**5**	**5**	**0**	**24.1**	**24**	**11**	**24**
						Rocket City (AA)	3-8	4.27	23	22	0	116.0	115	55	142
68	José Fermin	R-R	6-3	242	11/28/01	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**3-2**	**4.46**	**40**	**0**	**0**	**34.1**	**25**	**23**	**39**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	1-0	1.74	10	0	2	10.1	9	5	15
						Rocket City (AA)	3-0	1.13	6	0	0	8.0	3	1	15
						ACL Angels (R)	0-0	10.80	2	1	0	1.2	2	1	4
32	Ryan Johnson	S-R	6-6	215	8/5/02	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**1-1**	**7.36**	**14**	**0**	**1**	**14.2**	**24**	**5**	**16**
						Tri-City (A+)	4-3	1.88	12	12	0	57.1	41	10	65
44	Ben Joyce	R-R	6-5	225	9/17/00	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**1-0**	**6.23**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**4.1**	**5**	**1**	**1**
16	Yusei Kikuchi	L-L	6-0	210	6/17/91	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**7-11**	**3.99**	**33**	**33**	**0**	**178.1**	**180**	**74**	**174**
41	Jack Kochanowicz	L-R	6-7	228	12/22/00	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**3-11**	**6.81**	**23**	**23**	**0**	**111.0**	**136**	**58**	**72**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	0-2	5.95	4	4	0	19.2	18	16	16
	Cody Laweryson	L-R	6-4	205	5/10/98	**MINNESOTA**	**0-1**	**1.17**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**7.2**	**4**	**0**	**7**
						St. Paul (AAA)	2-1	2.84	17	0	0	25.1	22	10	25
						Wichita (AA)	0-3	2.89	17	0	6	18.2	20	4	20
47	Alek Manoah	R-R	6-6	285	1/9/98	Buffalo (AAA)	1-1	2.97	7	7	0	33.1	27	18	30
						New Hampshire (AA)	0-0	6.00	1	1	0	3.0	5	3	2
						Dunedin (A)	0-0	4.50	1	1	0	2.0	3	0	2
						FCL Blue Jays (R)	0-0	81.00	1	1	0	0.1	1	2	1
58	Victor Mederos	R-R	6-2	222	6/8/01	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**0-2**	**7.41**	**5**	**3**	**0**	**17.0**	**18**	**12**	**14**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	7-5	3.39	16	16	0	87.2	83	34	71
						Tri-City (A+)	0-2	3.52	3	3	0	15.1	17	3	14
13	Drew Pomeranz	R-L	6-5	246	11/22/88	**CHICAGO NL**	**2-2**	**2.17**	**57**	**4**	**1**	**49.2**	**38**	**15**	**57**
						Tacoma (AAA)	0-1	4.66	9	0	2	9.2	6	6	14
	Grayson Rodriguez	L-R	6-5	230	11/16/99	Injured — Missed Season									
68	Jordan Romano	R-R	6-5	210	4/21/93	**PHILADELPHIA**	**2-4**	**8.23**	**49**	**0**	**8**	**42.2**	**45**	**17**	**47**
63	Chase Silseth	R-R	6-0	217	5/18/00	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**0-0**	**1.64**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**11.0**	**10**	**6**	**13**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	3-2	3.23	18	7	3	39.0	27	24	43
						ACL Angels (R)	0-1	5.14	5	1	0	7.0	9	1	12
59	José Soriano	R-R	6-3	220	10/20/98	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**10-11**	**4.26**	**31**	**31**	**0**	**169.0**	**158**	**78**	**152**
24	Robert Stephenson	R-R	6-3	205	2/24/93	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**2-0**	**2.70**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**10.0**	**7**	**3**	**10**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	0-0	5.40	5	0	0	5.0	4	1	7
						Inland Empire (A)	1-0	3.00	3	0	0	3.0	2	0	2
	Walbert Urena	R-R	6-0	210	1/25/04	Salt Lake (AAA)	0-0	3.18	1	1	0	5.2	4	3	10
						Rocket City (AA)	6-9	4.39	27	27	0	135.1	115	70	115
	Kirby Yates	L-R	5-10	205	3/25/87	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**4-3**	**5.23**	**50**	**0**	**3**	**41.1**	**38**	**17**	**52**
56	Ryan Zeferjahn	R-R	6-5	209	2/28/98	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**6-5**	**4.74**	**62**	**1**	**2**	**57.0**	**49**	**35**	**73**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
25	Travis d'Arnaud	R-R	6-0	210	2/10/89	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.197**	**69**	**213**	**16**	**42**	**6**	**21**	**13**	**74**	**0**
14	Logan O'Hoppe	R-R	6-2	185	2/9/00	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.213**	**119**	**423**	**35**	**90**	**19**	**43**	**24**	**139**	**2**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Vaughn Grissom	R-R	6-3	210	1/5/01	Worcester (AAA)	.270	96	370	69	100	13	48	37	73	9
13	Denzer Guzman	R-R	6-1	190	2/8/04	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.190**	**13**	**42**	**4**	**8**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**22**	**0**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	.262	36	130	26	34	6	21	21	45	6
						Rocket City (AA)	.242	93	335	39	81	11	53	41	92	8
4	Christian Moore	R-R	6-0	210	10/21/02	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.198**	**53**	**162**	**20**	**32**	**7**	**16**	**19**	**62**	**3**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	.292	30	120	22	35	5	26	14	40	4
						Rocket City (AA)	.234	34	124	15	29	1	14	21	40	5
						Inland Empire (A)	.455	4	11	3	5	1	2	5	2	1
9	Zach Neto	R-R	5-11	185	1/31/01	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.257**	**128**	**502**	**82**	**129**	**26**	**62**	**33**	**149**	**26**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	.286	13	49	16	14	4	8	7	13	1
19	Kyren Paris	R-R	5-11	180	11/11/01	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.190**	**44**	**126**	**20**	**24**	**6**	**11**	**10**	**59**	**7**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	.225	32	111	24	25	6	16	20	37	11
						Tri-City (A+)	.200	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
10	Oswald Peraza	R-R	5-11	200	6/15/00	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.186**	**35**	**86**	**6**	**16**	**2**	**7**	**6**	**33**	**6**
						NEW YORK AL	**.152**	**71**	**158**	**18**	**24**	**3**	**13**	**11**	**47**	**3**
6	Anthony Rendon	R-R	6-1	200	6/6/90	Injured — Missed Season										
18	Nolan Schanuel	L-R	6-2	220	2/14/02	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.264**	**132**	**488**	**64**	**129**	**12**	**53**	**59**	**71**	**5**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	.500	2	8	3	4	0	0	0	3	0

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
7	Jo Adell	R-R	6-2	215	4/8/99	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.236**	**152**	**526**	**63**	**124**	**37**	**98**	**33**	**151**	**5**
15	Matthew Lugo	R-R	6-0	190	5/9/01	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.232**	**31**	**69**	**9**	**16**	**4**	**9**	**0**	**24**	**0**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	.262	102	424	63	111	13	60	32	136	11
12	Jorge Soler	R-R	6-4	235	2/25/92	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.215**	**82**	**279**	**31**	**60**	**12**	**34**	**28**	**94**	**0**
22	Bryce Teodosio	R-L	6-3	220	6/18/99	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.203**	**50**	**138**	**12**	**28**	**1**	**7**	**5**	**47**	**7**
						Salt Lake (AAA)	.321	16	53	12	17	0	5	3	10	7
						ACL Angels (R)	.343	9	35	8	12	1	7	2	8	3
27	Mike Trout	R-R	6-2	235	8/7/91	**LOS ANGELES AL**	**.232**	**130**	**456**	**73**	**106**	**26**	**64**	**87**	**178**	**2**

Seattle MARINERS

2026 PREDICTION
1ST
AL WEST
2025 FINISH: 1ST (90-72)

After winning the American League West for the first time since 2001 and coming within one game of the World Series — losing to the Toronto Blue Jays in Game 7 of the American League Championship Series — the Mariners enter the 2026 season with the highest expectations in decades. With 75% of last year's team returning, including their entire starting rotation and superstars Cal Raleigh and Julio Rodríguez, the Mariners believe they can repeat as division winners — something they've never done — and make another run at appearing on baseball's biggest stage.

ROTATION

For the fourth straight season, the Mariners return the same five righthanders — Logan Gilbert, Bryan Woo, George Kirby, Luis Castillo and Bryce Miller — to a starting rotation that has been the foundation of their success. The 2025 season was perhaps their least productive, with Gilbert, Kirby and Miller spending extended periods on the injured list. But by the end of the season, all were healthy and keyed the run to the division title. Unlike offseasons past, Seattle never flirted with the idea of trading one of its starters, deciding to keep the unit together. Another year older, can this group remain healthy? If they do, they could comprise one of the best rotations in baseball.

BULLPEN

The bullpen figures to be a strength, anchored by closer Andrés Muñoz, who returns following a second straight All-Star season. Seattle brings back three othre key late-inning leverage relievers in righthanders Matt Brash and Eduard Bazardo and lefty Gabe Speier. One of the top priorities of Seattle's offseason was adding another reliever with late-inning experience. They did it via a trade, acquiring lefty Jose A. Ferrer from the Washington Nationals. Last season with the Nationals, Ferrer saw his role in late-inning situations increase after the trade deadline. Seattle believes he provides another option in situations where Speier received heavy use in 2026. The Mariners' middle relief will start with hard-throwing righthander Carlos Vargas, who proved to be durable if not consistent. The final two spots figure to be a revolving door of minor-league options, although Seattle is hoping Troy Taylor bounces back after a down 2025 season.

MIDDLE INFIELD

J.P. Crawford returns for what could be his final season in a Mariners uniform. The team's emotional leader is going into the last year of a five-year, $51 million contract. At 31 and with prized prospect Colt Emerson forcing his way into the equation, Crawford may walk as a free agent. He is still a solid player, accumulating 2.8 fWAR in 2026. The Mariners will give the second base job to Cole Young after an up-and-down rookie season. About two weeks into his call-up, Young produced a torrid 50-game stretch that included a .281/.369/.399 slash line with seven doubles, a triple, three home runs, 18 RBIs, 20 walks and only

RALEIGH
29
STRAUSS

CAL RALEIGH

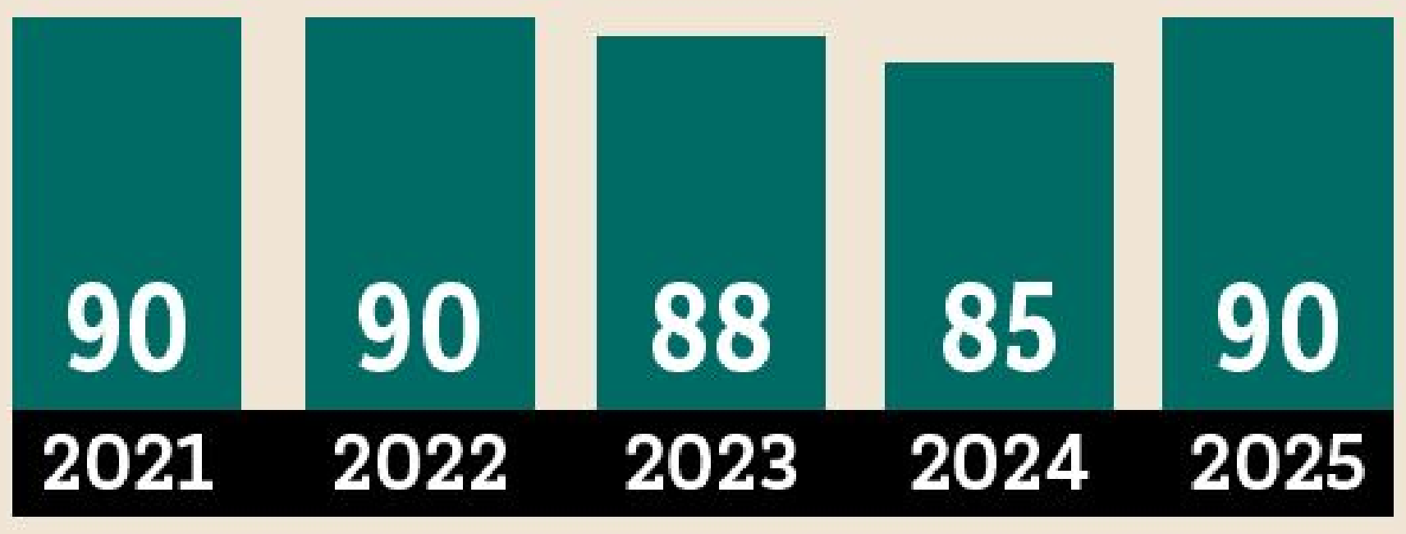
NICK TURCHIARO-IMAGN IMAGES

T-Mobile Park

Opened: 1999 • Capacity: 47,929
Left: 331′ Center: 401′ Right: 326′
Tickets: 206-346-4001
mlb.com/MARINERS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

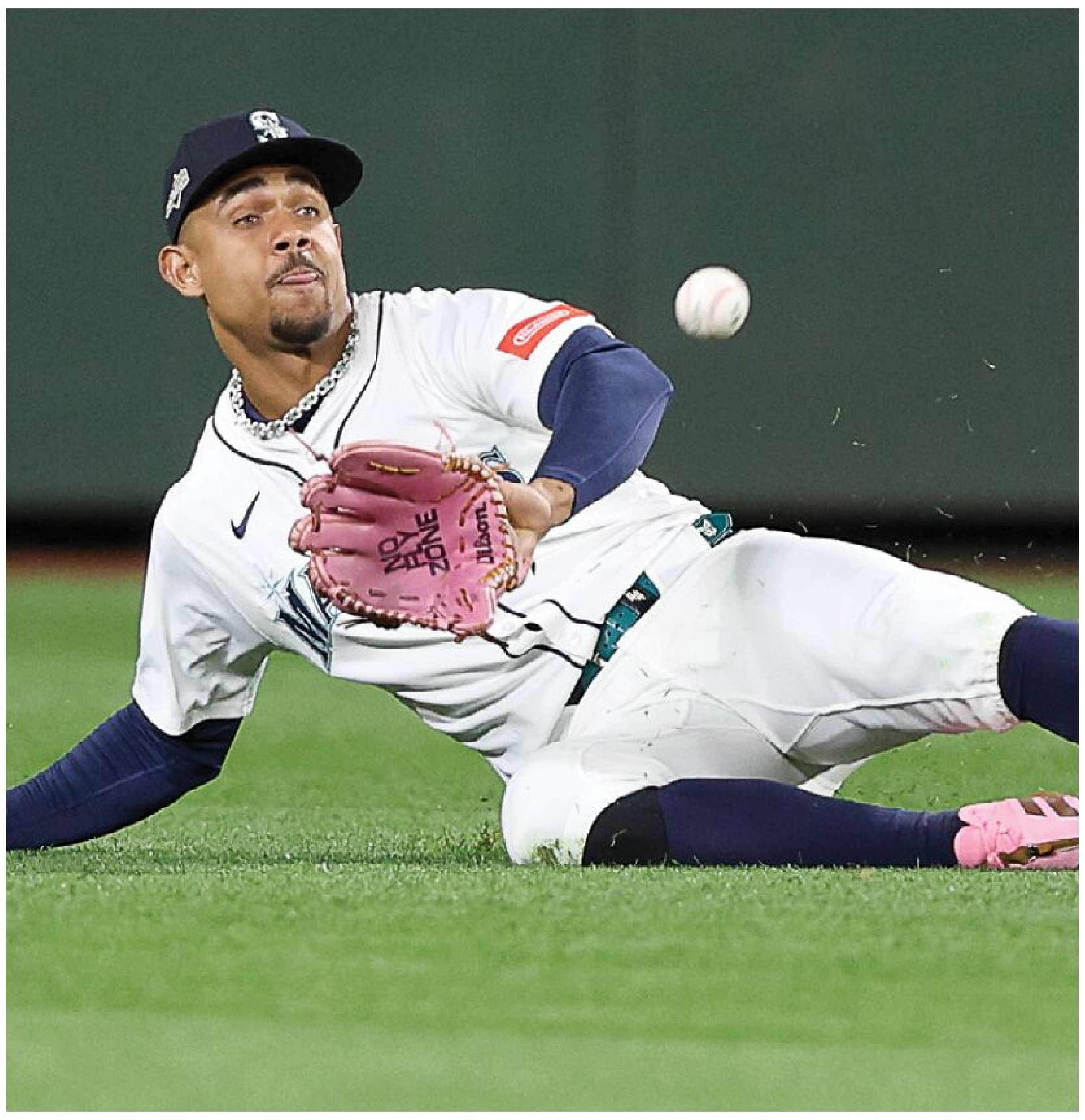
Largest increase in strikeout rate among AL pitchers from 2024-25, minimum 100 IP

1. Trevor Rogers, Orioles	7.1%
2. Bryan Woo, Mariners	**5.7%**
3. Logan Gilbert, Mariners	**4.9%**
4. Casey Mize, Tigers	4.9%
5. George Kirby, Mariners	**3.1%**

28 strikeouts in 178 plate appearances. But the league adjusted, and in his final 21 games, he posted an .059/.169/.287 slash line in 59 plate appearances. Still, the Mariners believe his projected performance will resemble the former and not the latter.

CORNERS

After the Mariners acquired first baseman Josh Naylor and third baseman Eugenio Suárez from the Arizona Diamondbacks at the 2025 trade deadline, there was some thought that they might try to bring both back as free agents in 2026. The Mariners' front office made it clear that signing Naylor to a long-term deal was their top priority of the offseason. They got it taken care of in November with a five-year, $91 million contract. Naylor brings a level of intensity and instincts to the field, as well as giving solid at-bats in the middle of the order. Suárez struggled in his second stint with the Mariners, and instead of committing to a free agent, the Mariners are open to using a platoon of Ben Williamson and Emerson at third base. The Mariners believe Emerson will make his MLB debut at some point in 2026, perhaps Opening Day.



JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

KEVIN NG-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

The Mariners' projected outfield will be the same as it was going into last season — Randy Arozarena in left field, Julio Rodríguez in center and the platoon of Victor Robles and Luke Raley in right field. The Mariners hope that Robles and Raley will be on the field more than last year's combined 105 games. Robles suffered a gruesome shoulder injury 10 days into the season, and Raley battled oblique and lower back issues for much of the year. Their absences gave Dominic Canzone an opportunity to reset his value, posting a .300/.358/481 slash line with 11 doubles, 11 home runs and 32 RBIs in 82 games. While his defense is passable, both Robles and Raley are much better defenders.

CATCHING

What can Raleigh do for an encore after a season that saw him break a slew of hitting records while finishing runner-up for the American League Most Valuable Player? It's unlikely that Raleigh will hit 60 homers again. But he's certainly capable of producing 40, particularly with his improvement from the right side of the plate. He played in 159 regular-season games in 2025 with 119 starts at catcher. The Mariners hope the ratio of games started at catcher to games started at designated hitter shifts slightly toward DH this season. Seattle signed veteran Andrew Knizner to a one-year contract to serve as Raleigh's backup.

PROJECTED LINEUP

▪ LINEUP

SS	J.P. Crawford (L)
C	Cal Raleigh (S)
CF	Julio Rodríguez (R)
1B	Josh Naylor (L)
LF	Randy Arozarena (R)
DH	Dominic Canzone (L)
RF	Victor Robles (R)
3B	Ben Williamson (R)
2B	Cole Young (L)

▪ BENCH

C	Andrew Knizner (R)
1B/OF	Luke Raley (L)
INF	Leo Rivas (S)
1B/OF	Rob Refsnyder (R)

▪ ROTATION

RHP	Logan Gilbert
RHP	Bryan Woo
RHP	George Kirby
RHP	Luis Castillo
RHP	Bryce Miller

▪ BULLPEN

RHP	Andrés Muñoz (C)
RHP	Matt Brash
RHP	Eduard Bazardo
LHP	Gabe Speier
LHP	Jose A. Ferrer
RHP	Carlos Vargas
RHP	Troy Taylor
RHP	Jackson Kowar

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE MARINERS "Outside of the Dodgers, I think this is the best team in baseball because every night you've got a formidable, arguably No. 1 on the mound that you're facing. They almost got to the World Series and didn't even start Bryan Woo, who was their best pitcher. They've got Andrés Muñoz, Eduard Bazardo and Matt Brash at the end of the bullpen who are really, really good, and Jose A. Ferrer was a great pickup because the other lefty, Gabe Speier, wore down at the end. Cal Raleigh is the rock of the team; there's so much value to the example he sets by posting every day. You see it with Randy Arozarena, J.P. Crawford and Julio Rodríguez, too — they accept and embrace the responsibility of being out there every day. They'll miss Jorge Polanco, but they knew what they had in Josh Naylor and made sure to bring him back. He's one of the smartest players in the league — you saw it with the stolen bases — and that kind of care level and intensity just lifts everyone around him. This is a fairly weak division, and Seattle should run away with it."

DH/BENCH

The Mariners have avoided having a full-time designated hitter since the days of Nelson Cruz. They've used the spot to keep Raleigh's bat in the lineup and also to give veteran players a "rest" day. This season, they'll continue to move players around, although Canzone and Rob Refsnyder will see plenty of starts at DH. Either Raleigh or Refsnyder, who mashes left-handed pitching, will DH vs. opposing lefty starters. Seattle can also use Refsnyder at both corner outfield spots and first base when needed. The Mariners will turn to Leo Rivas to be their utility player. He's a switch-hitter who can put the ball in play and move runners while playing outstanding defense at second, shortstop and third.

MANAGEMENT

Dan Wilson returns for his second full season as manager. While he helped lead Seattle further into the playoffs than any manager in team history, the decision to have Eduard Bazardo face George Springer in Game 7 of the ALCS instead of going to Muñoz isn't going to be soon forgotten after Springer hit the go-ahead homer that eventually sent Toronto to the World Series. Wilson lost several coaches from his staff, including bullpen coach Tony Arnerich, field coordinator Louis Boyd and third base coach Kristopher Negron. He filled those spots with Austin Nola, Jake McKinley and Carlos Cardoza, respectively. Perhaps the biggest staff-related news was that the Mariners were able to keep pitching coach Pete Woodworth, director of pitching strategy Trent Blank and assistant pitching coach Danny Farquhar despite interest in all three from multiple teams.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Mariners have all the pieces in place to win the AL West again. But are they good enough to make a run at the World Series? They were unable to convince Jorge Polanco to come back, which is a loss, and budget restraints, despite last year's success, kept Seattle from vying for top free agents beyond Naylor. They will need Robles or Raley to bounce back without much drop-off from other players, and they need Raleigh and Rodríguez to play like MVPs again. Seattle has been willing to add players at the MLB trade deadline and will likely need to do so again.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

NIFTY FIFTY This season marks the 50th in Mariners' franchise history. There will be plenty of celebrations and promotions to commemorate the anniversary. On Aug. 8, the team will honor the top 50 players in franchise history in a special pregame ceremony. While Seattle hasn't had much success as a team, the organization has had four players reach the Hall of Fame as Mariners — Ken Griffey Jr., Edgar Martinez, Randy Johnson and Ichiro Suzuki.

BIG UNIT Johnson will have his No. 51 retired in a pregame ceremony on May 6 at T-Mobile Park. It will be the second straight season the Mariners have retired that number. On Aug. 9, 2025, the Mariners retired the No. 51 worn by Ichiro as a celebration of his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. In 10 seasons with Seattle, Johnson posted a 130-74 record over 266 starts and eight relief appearances. He had 51 complete games and 19 shutouts, including a no-hitter. He struck out 2,162 hitters.

A KEY FRONT OFFICE DEPARTURE The Mariners suffered a big loss to their front office and player development when assistant general manager Andy McKay left his position for a job as field coordinator on the Guardians MLB staff. One of the first hires by Jerry Dipoto when he took over as general manager in 2015, McKay helped rebuild and modernize the Mariners' player development system, pushing a farm system that was considered one of the worst in 2018 to a top-five system in the past three seasons.

Schedule

🟩 HOME ⬜ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	🟩 26 CLE	🟩 27 CLE	🟩 28 CLE
🟩 29 CLE	🟩 30 NYY	🟩 31 NYY	🟩 1 NYY	2	⬜ 3 LAA	⬜ 4 LAA
⬜ 5 LAA	⬜ 6 TEX	⬜ 7 TEX	⬜ 8 TEX	9	🟩 10 HOU	🟩 11 HOU
🟩 12 HOU	🟩 13 HOU	⬜ 14 SD	⬜ 15 SD	⬜ 16 SD	🟩 17 TEX	🟩 18 TEX
🟩 19 TEX	🟩 20 A's	🟩 21 A's	🟩 22 A's	23	⬜ 24 STL	⬜ 25 STL
⬜ 26 STL	⬜ 27 MIN	⬜ 28 MIN	⬜ 29 MIN	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					🟩 1 KC	🟩 2 KC
🟩 3 KC	🟩 4 ATL	🟩 5 ATL	🟩 6 ATL	7	⬜ 8 CWS	⬜ 9 CWS
⬜ 10 CWS	⬜ 11 HOU	⬜ 12 HOU	⬜ 13 HOU	⬜ 14 HOU	🟩 15 SD	🟩 16 SD
🟩 17 SD	🟩 18 CWS	🟩 19 CWS	🟩 20 CWS	21	⬜ 22 KC	⬜ 23 KC
⬜ 24 KC	⬜ 25 A's	⬜ 26 A's	⬜ 27 A's	28	🟩 29 ARI	🟩 30 ARI
🟩 31 ARI						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	🟩 1 NYM	🟩 2 NYM	🟩 3 NYM	4	⬜ 5 DET	⬜ 6 DET
⬜ 7 DET	⬜ 8 BAL	⬜ 9 BAL	⬜ 10 BAL	⬜ 11 BAL	⬜ 12 WAS	⬜ 13 WAS
⬜ 14 WAS	15	🟩 16 BAL	🟩 17 BAL	🟩 18 BAL	19	🟩 20 BOS
🟩 21 BOS	22	⬜ 23 PIT	⬜ 24 PIT	⬜ 25 PIT	⬜ 26 CLE	⬜ 27 CLE
⬜ 28 CLE	🟩 29 LAA	🟩 30 LAA				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	🟩 2 LAA	🟩 3 TOR	🟩 4 TOR
🟩 5 TOR	6	⬜ 7 MIA	⬜ 8 MIA	⬜ 9 MIA	⬜ 10 TB	⬜ 11 TB
⬜ 12 TB	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	🟩 17 SF	🟩 18 SF
🟩 19 SF	🟩 20 CIN	🟩 21 CIN	🟩 22 CIN	23	⬜ 24 TEX	⬜ 25 TEX
⬜ 26 TEX	⬜ 27 TEX	⬜ 28 LAD	⬜ 29 LAD	⬜ 30 LAD	🟩 31 MIN	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						🟩 1 MIN
🟩 2 MIN	3	🟩 4 DET	🟩 5 DET	🟩 6 DET	🟩 7 TB	🟩 8 TB
🟩 9 TB	10	⬜ 11 NYY	⬜ 12 NYY	⬜ 13 NYY	⬜ 14 HOU	⬜ 15 HOU
⬜ 16 HOU	17	⬜ 18 MIL	⬜ 19 MIL	⬜ 20 MIL	🟩 21 CHC	🟩 22 CHC
🟩 23 CHC	🟩 24 PHI	🟩 25 PHI	🟩 26 PHI	27	⬜ 28 TOR	⬜ 29 TOR
⬜ 30 TOR	⬜ 31 BOS					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		⬜ 1 BOS	⬜ 2 BOS	🟩 3 A's	🟩 4 A's	🟩 5 A's
🟩 6 A's	7	🟩 8 TEX	🟩 9 TEX	🟩 10 TEX	⬜ 11 A's	⬜ 12 A's
⬜ 13 A's	⬜ 14 LAA	⬜ 15 LAA	⬜ 16 LAA	17	⬜ 18 COL	⬜ 19 COL
⬜ 20 COL	21	🟩 22 HOU	🟩 23 HOU	🟩 24 LAA	🟩 25 LAA	🟩 26 LAA
🟩 27 LAA	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

4 Julio Rodríguez became the first player in MLB history to begin his career with four 20/20 seasons.

◆

25 Bryan Woo began his season with 25 consecutive starts of six-plus innings and two or fewer walks allowed — the longest streak to begin a season since Cy Young in 1905.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

MARK J. REBILAS-IMAGN IMAGES

- **1. Colt Emerson, SS (20) Will have a chance to make the Opening Day roster at third base and take over at shortstop in 2027.**

2. Ryan Sloan, RHP (20) Has a mature mentality with an advanced pitch repertoire.

3. Jonny Farmelo, OF (21) Fully recovered from 2024 knee surgery; a breakout season is expected.

4. Kade Anderson, LHP (21) Third overall pick in the 2025 draft has the talent to make his MLB debut in 2026.

5. Lazaro Montes, OF (21) The best pure power-hitting prospect in the Mariners organization.

6. Jurrangelo Cijntje, SHP (22) Has the unique ability to throw from both sides; may move to right-handed pitching only in 2026.

7. Michael Arroyo, INF/OF (21) Mariners hope a switch from second base to left field will alleviate some of the defensive issues.

8. Felnin Celesten, SS (20) Switch-hitter projects to remain at shortstop, but can he stay healthy enough to accelerate development?

9. Luke Stevenson, C (21) An elite defensive catcher with power from the left side. K's are a concern.

10. Tai Peete, OF (20) A switch from infield to corner outfield has brought stability to his overall performance.

Mariners Roster

President of Baseball Operations: Jerry Dipoto • **Manager:** Dan Wilson • **Coaches:** Manny Acta (bench), Trent Blank (pitching strategy), Carlos Cardoza (third base), Danny Farquhar (asst. pitching), Perry Hill (infield), Bobby Magallanes (asst. hitting), Edgar Martinez (hitting strategy), Austin Nola (bullpen), Kevin Seitzer (hitting), Pete Woodworth (pitching), Eric Young Jr. (first base)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
83	Eduard Bazardo	R-R	6-0	190	9/1/95	**SEATTLE**	5-0	2.52	73	0	0	78.2	53	27	82
47	Matt Brash	R-R	6-1	173	5/12/98	**SEATTLE**	1-3	2.47	53	0	4	47.1	41	18	58
						Tacoma (AAA)	0-0	8.44	6	0	0	5.1	9	2	5
62	Blas Castaño	R-R	5-10	162	9/8/98	**SEATTLE**	0-0	9.00	1	0	0	3.0	4	2	1
						Tacoma (AAA)	8-6	5.19	29	24	0	126.2	125	51	97
58	Luis Castillo	R-R	6-2	200	12/12/92	**SEATTLE**	11-8	3.54	32	32	0	180.2	168	46	162
74	Jhonathan Díaz	L-L	6-0	170	9/13/96	**SEATTLE**	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	1.1	1	0	1
						Tacoma (AAA)	11-6	4.15	27	26	0	138.2	159	24	116
73	Logan Evans	R-R	6-4	215	6/5/01	**SEATTLE**	6-5	4.32	16	15	0	81.1	82	31	59
						Tacoma (AAA)	1-3	5.32	11	11	0	44.0	51	13	45
45	Jose A. Ferrer	L-L	6-1	233	3/3/00	**WASHINGTON**	4-4	4.48	72	0	11	76.1	81	16	71
36	Logan Gilbert	R-R	6-6	215	5/5/97	**SEATTLE**	6-6	3.44	25	25	0	131.0	104	31	173
						Tacoma (AAA)	0-0	2.79	3	3	0	9.2	8	4	11
46	Domingo Gonzalez	R-R	6-0	185	9/27/99	Tacoma (AAA)	1-0	5.02	11	0	0	14.1	12	6	9
						Gwinnett (AAA)	2-1	4.29	35	0	0	42.0	40	21	39
26	Emerson Hancock	R-R	6-4	213	5/31/99	**SEATTLE**	4-5	4.90	22	16	0	90.0	93	31	64
						Tacoma (AAA)	1-2	5.24	11	9	0	44.2	54	15	56
48	Alex Hoppe	R-R	6-1	200	12/17/98	Worcester (AAA)	0-2	4.76	37	0	5	45.1	45	24	56
						Portland (AA)	1-1	3.94	7	0	1	16.0	14	10	17
68	George Kirby	R-R	6-4	215	2/4/98	**SEATTLE**	10-8	4.21	23	23	0	126.0	121	29	137
						Tacoma (AAA)	0-0	7.20	3	3	0	10.0	15	2	13
37	Jackson Kowar	R-R	6-5	200	10/4/96	**SEATTLE**	2-0	4.24	15	0	0	17.0	14	7	15
						Tacoma (AAA)	1-0	2.57	16	0	2	14.0	9	10	15
						ACL Mariners (R)	0-0	4.50	2	2	0	2.0	2	0	1
64	Casey Legumina	R-R	6-2	195	6/19/97	**SEATTLE**	4-6	5.62	48	1	0	49.2	47	25	55
						Tacoma (AAA)	3-0	0.87	10	0	1	10.1	9	5	13
52	Ryan Loutos	R-R	6-5	240	1/29/99	**WASHINGTON**	1-0	12.00	10	0	0	9.0	16	6	6
						LOS ANGELES NL	0-0	15.00	2	0	0	3.0	4	2	2
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	0-0	1.69	7	0	1	10.2	5	4	9
						Memphis (AAA)	0-0	3.38	8	0	2	8.0	7	2	6
						Rochester (AAA)	4-1	4.32	23	0	3	25.0	24	13	27
50	Bryce Miller	R-R	6-2	200	8/23/98	**SEATTLE**	4-6	5.68	18	18	0	90.1	93	34	74
						Tacoma (AAA)	1-0	4.05	3	3	0	13.1	7	3	15
75	Andrés Muñoz	R-R	6-2	222	1/16/99	**SEATTLE**	3-3	1.73	64	0	38	62.1	36	28	83
49	Robinson Ortiz	L-L	6-0	180	1/4/00	Oklahoma City (AAA)	1-0	2.76	15	1	0	16.1	11	9	14
						Tulsa (AA)	3-0	1.69	15	0	1	21.1	11	9	30
						Great Lakes (A+)	1-2	3.74	18	0	3	21.2	22	15	28
55	Gabe Speier	L-L	5-11	200	4/12/95	**SEATTLE**	4-3	2.61	76	0	0	62.0	43	11	82
59	Troy Taylor	R-R	6-0	205	9/9/01	**SEATTLE**	0-0	12.15	8	0	0	6.2	14	3	2
						Tacoma (AAA)	3-4	6.85	50	0	7	44.2	46	29	54
54	Carlos Vargas	R-R	6-4	210	10/13/99	**SEATTLE**	5-5	3.97	70	0	1	77.0	81	23	54
43	Cole Wilcox	R-R	6-5	232	7/14/99	**TAMPA BAY**	0-0	27.00	1	0	0	1.0	4	3	1
						Durham (AAA)	2-5	3.71	34	1	2	51.0	46	24	57
						Montgomery (AA)	0-0	3.68	5	0	1	7.1	5	3	6
22	Bryan Woo	R-R	6-2	205	1/30/00	**SEATTLE**	15-7	2.94	30	30	0	186.2	137	36	198

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
25	Andrew Knizner	R-R	6-1	225	2/3/95	**SAN FRANCISCO**	.221	33	77	12	17	1	5	7	10	0
						Sacramento (AAA)	.367	8	30	6	11	0	10	6	7	0
						Rochester (AAA)	.382	23	68	10	26	1	11	13	11	0
29	Cal Raleigh	S-R	6-2	235	11/26/96	**SEATTLE**	.247	159	596	110	147	60	125	97	188	14

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1	Ryan Bliss	R-R	5-7	165	12/13/99	**SEATTLE**	.200	11	35	1	7	1	3	4	11	2
						Tacoma (AAA)	.385	6	13	0	5	0	7	4	5	2
3	J.P. Crawford	L-R	6-0	202	1/11/95	**SEATTLE**	.265	157	570	69	151	12	58	74	122	8
21	Miles Mastrobuoni	L-R	5-10	185	10/31/95	**SEATTLE**	.250	76	152	20	38	1	12	17	29	6
						Tacoma (AAA)	.296	31	115	22	34	1	18	25	18	9
12	Josh Naylor	L-L	5-10	235	6/22/97	**SEATTLE**	.299	54	194	32	58	9	33	11	34	19
						ARIZONA	.292	93	349	49	102	11	59	37	49	11
76	Leo Rivas	S-R	5-8	150	10/10/97	**SEATTLE**	.244	48	90	19	22	2	9	20	24	6
						Tacoma (AAA)	.318	66	223	63	71	10	46	62	59	24
0	Samad Taylor	R-R	5-8	160	7/11/98	**SEATTLE**	.125	4	8	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
						Tacoma (AAA)	.296	137	558	124	165	17	86	73	123	44
9	Ben Williamson	R-R	6-0	210	11/5/00	**SEATTLE**	.253	85	277	36	70	1	21	15	64	5
						Tacoma (AAA)	.314	52	210	35	66	5	46	25	32	10
2	Cole Young	L-R	5-11	180	7/29/03	**SEATTLE**	.211	77	223	24	47	4	24	28	47	1
						Tacoma (AAA)	.277	54	206	39	57	5	26	31	28	4

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
56	Randy Arozarena	R-R	5-10	185	2/28/95	**SEATTLE**	.238	160	613	95	146	27	76	64	191	31
8	Dominic Canzone	L-R	6-0	190	8/16/97	**SEATTLE**	.300	82	243	30	73	11	32	20	59	3
						Tacoma (AAA)	.296	45	179	35	53	13	36	18	42	3
20	Luke Raley	L-R	6-3	235	9/19/94	**SEATTLE**	.202	73	183	23	37	4	19	19	64	2
						Tacoma (AAA)	.314	9	35	7	11	3	9	2	12	0
30	Rob Refsnyder	R-R	6-0	215	3/26/91	**BOSTON**	.269	70	182	29	49	9	30	24	54	3
10	Victor Robles	R-R	6-0	193	5/19/97	**SEATTLE**	.245	32	106	12	26	1	9	3	26	6
						Tacoma (AAA)	.310	8	29	4	9	1	9	0	9	2
44	Julio Rodríguez	R-R	6-3	228	12/29/00	**SEATTLE**	.267	160	652	106	174	32	95	44	152	30
31	Rhylan Thomas	L-L	5-10	170	4/15/00	**SEATTLE**	.125	3	8	2	1	0	2	1	0	0
						Tacoma (AAA)	.325	134	547	105	178	7	78	46	32	35

Texas
RANGERS

2026 PREDICTION
3RD
AL WEST
2025 FINISH: 3RD (81-81)

Outfielder Brandon Nimmo had the right to veto a Nov. 24 trade after the Rangers agreed to acquire him from the New York Mets for second baseman Marcus Semien. Nimmo instead approved the trade after talking with his old teammate, Rangers pitcher Jacob deGrom. The two had played together in New York, and deGrom sold him on the idea of playing in Texas.

"He thinks that we are capable of winning a World Series," Nimmo says. "We're not in a rebuild mode. We're going for it. I would not have waived the no-trade clause if I did not think that I could come here and be a part of chasing that World Series."

General manager Chris Young has also made that clear. The Rangers, who won the World Series in 2023, expect to contend for the title again despite disappointing seasons in 2024 and '25.

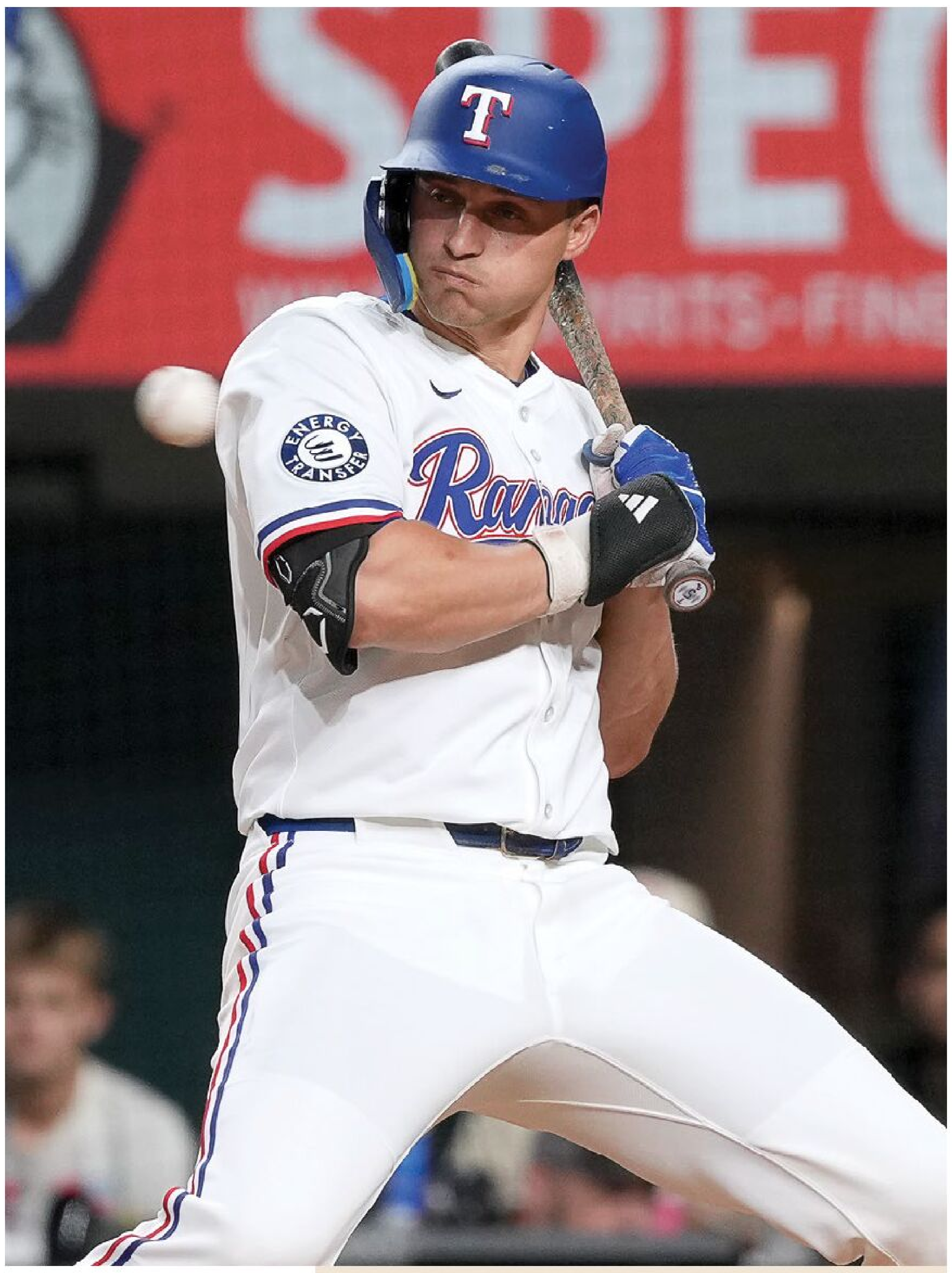
The Rangers led the American League in team ERA and team fielding percentage in 2025, but their OPS of .684 was the third-lowest in the league. Their 175 home runs were the fourth-fewest.

ROTATION

deGrom (12-8, 2.97 ERA) made a full recovery from Tommy John surgery and was the AL Comeback Player of the Year in '25. He is 37, but the Rangers view him as a No. 1 starter. Nathan Eovaldi (11-3, 1.73) and Jack Leiter (10-10, 3.86) join deGrom in giving the Rangers a potentially strong upper rotation. Kumar Rocker (4-5, 5.74), the third overall pick in the 2022 draft, has the talent to be a front-line starter, but injuries have held him back. He and Leiter could carry the Rangers rotation for at least the next few years. Lefthander Jacob Latz and righthanders Jose Corniell and Cole Winn all could win a spot here, as all have been starters in the minors. Latz would likely get first chance after making eight big-league starts last year and going 1-0 with a 2.72 ERA and 1.08 WHIP in that role.

BULLPEN

Lefthander Robert Garcia had nine saves last season with a 2.95 ERA and a 1.25 WHIP. He returns to anchor a Rangers bullpen that was hit hard by free agency. The Rangers started reassembling their 'pen by re-signing righthander Chris Martin. He is 39 and had shoulder issues last season but also posted a 2.98 ERA and 1.20 WHIP in 49 games. Veteran lefthander Tyler Alexander and righthander Alexis Díaz also signed one-year deals as free agents. Winn (1.51 ERA, 0.96 WHIP) was terrific in 33 games but had shoulder issues at the end of the season. Corniell, the Rangers' No. 3 prospect, could earn a spot here as he finishes his comeback from 2024 Tommy John surgery. So could righthander Luis Curvelo, who has averaged 10.1 strikeouts per nine innings in the minors. Righthander Carter Baumler will get a look in spring training. Texas acquired Baumler by trade as a Rule 5 pick from the Baltimore Orioles via the Pittsburgh Pirates and struck out 10.6 batters per nine innings through four minor league seasons.



COREY SEAGER

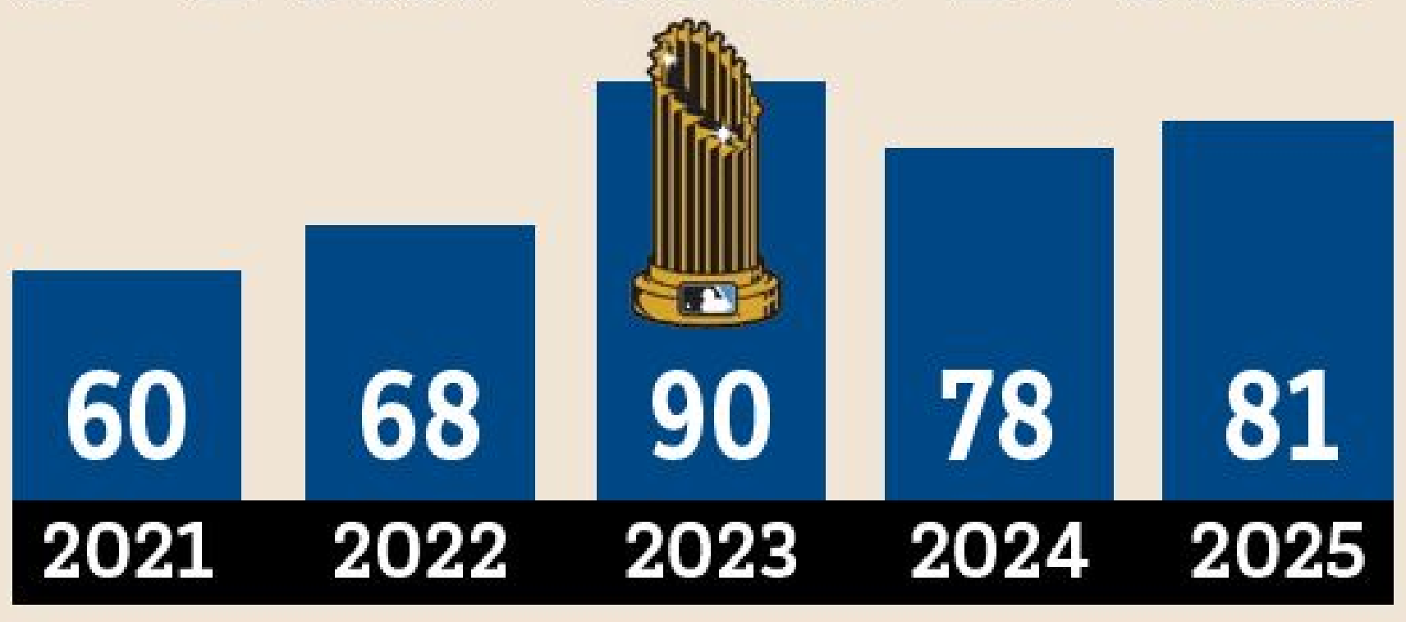
JIM COWSERT-IMAGN IMAGES

Globe Life Field

Opened: 2020 • Capacity: 40,300
Left: 329' Center: 407' Right: 326'
Tickets: 972-RANGERS
mlb.com/RANGERS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Runs above average on cutters as a team, 2025

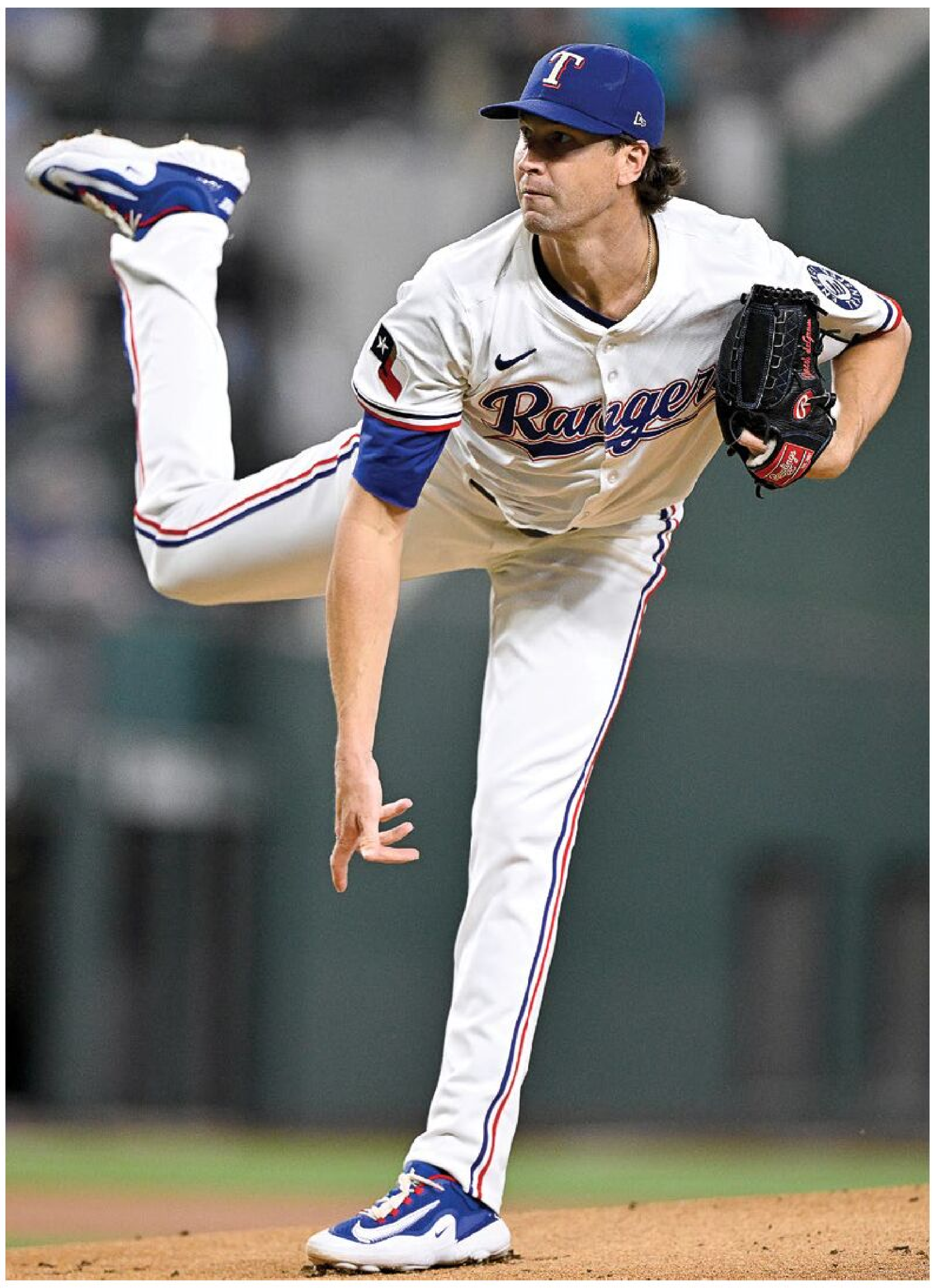
1. Rangers	**31.5**
2. Red Sox	14.3
3. Mets	10.2
4. Cubs	9.3
5. Phillies	4.7

MIDDLE INFIELD

The dynamic duo has been split up. Shortstop Corey Seager is the Rangers' best player, but second baseman Semien was traded to the Mets for Nimmo. Josh Smith is the top candidate to replace him. But new manager Skip Schumaker says that Smith must win the job, and the Rangers may prefer him in a utility role. Smith was the Silver Slugger winner as a utility player in 2024 and has played in just 10 games at second in his career. Seager will be 32 in April but still has plus-defense numbers.

CORNERS

Josh Jung was an All-Star in 2023 and finished that season with a .781 OPS, 23 home runs and 70 RBIs. Last year, he had a .684 OPS with 14 homers and 61 RBIs. He is 28, and the Rangers need a breakout year from the eighth overall pick in the 2019 draft. First baseman Jake Burger got off to a miserable start last year before picking it up. But his .687 OPS was a career low. He did hit 29 home runs in 2024, so the Rangers are still hopeful he can contribute in the middle of the order.



JACOB deGROM

OUTFIELD

The Rangers are still relying heavily on their young players, and that is most evident in the outfield with Wyatt Langford and Evan Carter. Langford, 24, who slashed .241/.344/.431 last year with 22 home runs and 62 RBIs, is another top draft pick (fourth overall in 2023) in need of a breakout season. Same with Carter, who was great for the Rangers during the late-season run to the World Series title in '23 but has been clobbered by injuries the past two years. Both could start in center field, but early indications are that Langford could win that job. Nimmo most likely takes over in right field, which is open after the Rangers non-tendered Adolis García. Nimmo has averaged 24 home runs and 91 RBIs the past two seasons and can fit into any winning lineup.

CATCHING

Kyle Higashioka, entering his 10th season, is a plus defender who works well with pitchers and has some power. But he'll be 36 in April and has never been a full-time guy. The Rangers non-tendered Jonah Heim and don't have a prospect ready to help out, so the team signed Danny Jansen as a backup. He hit .215 with 14 homers and 36 RBIs in 98 games last year for the Tampa Bay Rays and Milwaukee Brewers. Like Higashioka, he works well with pitchers.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

SS	Corey Seager (L)
LF	Evan Carter (L)
CF	Wyatt Langford (R)
1B	Jake Burger (R)
RF	Brandon Nimmo (L)
3B	Josh Jung (R)
DH	Joc Pederson (L)
C	Kyle Higashioka (R)
2B	Josh Smith (L)

■ BENCH

C	Danny Jansen (R)
INF	Ezequiel Duran (R)
OF	Sam Haggerty (S)
OF	Michael Helman (R)

■ ROTATION

RHP	Jacob deGrom
RHP	Nathan Eovaldi
RHP	Jack Leiter
RHP	Kumar Rocker
LHP	Jacob Latz

■ BULLPEN

LHP	Robert Garcia (C)
RHP	Chris Martin
LHP	Tyler Alexander
RHP	Alexis Díaz
RHP	Cole Winn
RHP	Jose Corniell
RHP	Luis Curvelo
RHP	Carter Baumler

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE RANGERS "They really struggled at the plate last season, but that's a really tough place to hit now. It really hurts a guy like Josh Jung, who's one of a few guys to regress since their championship in 2023. Evan Carter is another; they should trade him while he still has value. Wyatt Langford's the guy who keeps getting better — he'll be a superstar by 2027. Josh Smith is their Swiss army knife, a real good defender wherever you put him, and he knows what he's doing at the plate. Corey Seager is on a Hall of Fame trajectory, with no signs of slowing down. But it's worrisome that he can't stay healthy for a full season. Their pitching was terrific — Jacob deGrom and Nathan Eovaldi especially, even though you're always holding your breath about their health. Jack Leiter is figuring it out; he's a smart guy with great stuff, and with better command, he'll be a horse. Kumar Rocker is a wild card, and don't forget about Jacob Latz; I think he has a chance to be really good."

JEROME MIRON-IMAGN IMAGES

DH/BENCH

Joc Pederson was a huge disappointment for the Rangers in the first of a two-year deal. He hit .181 with a .614 OPS, nine home runs and 26 RBIs. The Rangers need something more like the three previous seasons when he averaged 20 home runs and 62 RBIs with a .262/.365/.485 slash line. He did finish strong last season at .242/.318/.439 with seven home runs and 20 RBIs in his final 46 games. Ezequiel Duran, Sam Haggerty, Cody Freeman and Michael Helman offer plenty of versatility for the bench.

MANAGEMENT

Schumaker was Young's first and only serious candidate to replace Bruce Bochy as manager. Schumaker was a special assistant under Young last year. Prior to that, Schumaker was the Marlins' manager for two years, guiding them to the postseason as a wild-card team in 2023 and earning the National League's Manager of the Year award. The coaching staff has been almost completely revamped, with bullpen coach Jordan Tiegs taking over as pitching coach. Prior to 2025, Tiegs had six years in the Rangers' farm system, so he is well-acquainted with the team's young arms. Alex Cintron joins lead hitting coach Justin Viele. Cintron was the Astros' hitting coach for the previous six seasons. Eric Dorton, who had been serving as the minor-league hitting coordinator, will also be on the big-league staff.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Rangers need their young players to start showing why they were first- and second-round picks in the draft — specifically, Langford, Jung and Carter in the lineup and Leiter and Rocker in the rotation, all of whom should be young building blocks. Seager, deGrom and Eovaldi are all proven veterans who perform when healthy, but the Rangers really need their top young players to show up this season.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

MR. WYOMING Brandon Nimmo is one of 17 MLB players all-time who were born in Wyoming. Nimmo is from Cheyenne, played at East High School and has played in 1,066 MLB games. That ranks fourth among Wyoming natives, but if he plays in 45 games this season, he will pass Mike Lansing into first place. Nimmo's last home run in 2025 (Sept. 23 against the Chicago Cubs) was No. 135 of his career, passing John Buck for most ever by a player from Wyoming.

NO. 21 Jake Burger wears No. 21 in honor of his daughter, Penelope, who was born last year with Down syndrome. (The condition is the result of being born with an extra copy of chromosome 21.) Penelope underwent open-heart surgery during spring training. Burger was away from the team, but when he came back, he hit a home run while wearing her hospital wristband.

GUITAR HERO Kyle Higashioka, a clubhouse favorite, once bought a $50 guitar from a Staten Island pawn shop while he was in the minor leagues and taught himself to play. Now he entertains teammates with '80s hard rock selections like "The Trooper" by Iron Maiden and Metallica's "Fade to Black." Another favorite is "Hells Bells," which was the entrance music for Hall of Fame reliever Trevor Hoffman.

TEXAS FLOODING Corey Seager spearheaded the Rangers' efforts to assist the victims of the devastating flooding that struck Central Texas last July. Seager and his wife made a significant donation to the $1 million fund the Rangers raised to provide assistance after more than 100 people died from flooding on the Guadalupe River. Seager was the Rangers' nominee for the Roberto Clemente Award.

HITTING LEFTIES Evan Carter is a left-handed hitter but has not hit lefties in his first three seasons in the majors. He is 5-for-60 off them in that span, a .083 average that is the lowest in the majors (min. 50 plate appearances) in that time frame. He must show he can hit lefties, or he'll end up a platoon player.

Schedule

🟥 HOME ⬜ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 ⬜ PHI	27	28 ⬜ PHI
29 ⬜ PHI	30 ⬜ BAL	31 ⬜ BAL	1 ⬜ BAL	2	3 🟥 CIN	4 🟥 CIN
5 🟥 CIN	6 🟥 SEA	7 🟥 SEA	8 🟥 SEA	9	10 ⬜ LAD	11 ⬜ LAD
12 ⬜ LAD	13 ⬜ A’s	14 ⬜ A’s	15 ⬜ A’s	16 ⬜ A’s	17 ⬜ SEA	18 ⬜ SEA
19 ⬜ SEA	20	21 🟥 PIT	22 🟥 PIT	23 🟥 PIT	24 🟥 A’s	25 🟥 A’s
26 🟥 A’s	27 🟥 NYY	28 🟥 NYY	29 🟥 NYY	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ⬜ DET	2 ⬜ DET
3 ⬜ DET	4	5 ⬜ NYY	6 ⬜ NYY	7 ⬜ NYY	8 🟥 CHC	9 🟥 CHC
10 🟥 CHC	11 🟥 ARI	12 🟥 ARI	13 🟥 ARI	14	15 ⬜ HOU	16 ⬜ HOU
17 ⬜ HOU	18 ⬜ COL	19 ⬜ COL	20 ⬜ COL	21	22 ⬜ LAA	23 ⬜ LAA
24 ⬜ LAA	25 🟥 HOU	26 🟥 HOU	27 🟥 HOU	28 🟥 HOU	29 🟥 KC	30 🟥 KC
31 🟥 KC						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 ⬜ STL	2 ⬜ STL	3 ⬜ STL	4	5 🟥 CLE	6 🟥 CLE
7 🟥 CLE	8	9 ⬜ KC	10 ⬜ KC	11 ⬜ KC	12 ⬜ BOS	13 ⬜ BOS
14 ⬜ BOS	15 🟥 MIN	16 🟥 MIN	17	18 🟥 MIN	19 🟥 SD	20 🟥 SD
21 🟥 SD	22 ⬜ MIA	23 ⬜ MIA	24 ⬜ MIA	25 ⬜ TOR	26 ⬜ TOR	27 ⬜ TOR
28 ⬜ TOR	29 ⬜ CLE	30 ⬜ CLE				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 ⬜ CLE	2 🟥 DET	3	4 🟥 DET
5 🟥 DET	6	7 🟥 LAA	8 🟥 LAA	9 🟥 LAA	10 🟥 HOU	11 🟥 HOU
12 🟥 HOU	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 ⬜ ATL	18 ⬜ ATL
19 ⬜ ATL	20 🟥 CWS	21 🟥 CWS	22 🟥 CWS	23	24 🟥 SEA	25 🟥 SEA
26 🟥 SEA	27 🟥 SEA	28 ⬜ TB	29 ⬜ TB	30 ⬜ TB	31 ⬜ HOU	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 ⬜ HOU
2 ⬜ HOU	3 🟥 SF	4 🟥 SF	5 🟥 SF	6	7 🟥 BAL	8 🟥 BAL
9 🟥 BAL	10 ⬜ LAA	11 ⬜ LAA	12 ⬜ LAA	13 ⬜ LAA	14 ⬜ A’s	15 ⬜ A’s
16 ⬜ A’s	17	18 🟥 WAS	19 🟥 WAS	20 🟥 WAS	21 🟥 LAA	22 🟥 LAA
23 🟥 LAA	24 ⬜ CWS	25 ⬜ CWS	26 ⬜ CWS	27	28 ⬜ MIL	29 ⬜ MIL
30 ⬜ MIL	31 🟥 A’s					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 🟥 A’s	2 🟥 A’s	3 🟥 TB	4 🟥 TB	5 🟥 TB
6 🟥 TB	7	8 ⬜ SEA	9 ⬜ SEA	10 ⬜ SEA	11 ⬜ ARI	12 ⬜ ARI
13 ⬜ ARI	14	15 🟥 BOS	16 🟥 BOS	17 🟥 BOS	18 🟥 TOR	19 🟥 TOR
20 🟥 TOR	21	22 🟥 NYM	23 🟥 NYM	24 🟥 NYM	25 ⬜ MIN	26 ⬜ MIN
27 ⬜ MIN	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

.991 The Rangers' team fielding percentage last season, the highest in MLB history. The Rangers had 123 errorless games, also an MLB record.

◆

3.47 The Rangers led the majors in pitching for the first time ever. Their 3.47 ERA was the lowest by a Rangers staff since 1983.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

JOE CAMPOREALE-IMAGN IMAGES

- **1. Sebastian Walcott, SS (20)** Profiles as a middle-of-the-order bat with some speed. May end up at third or in the outfield.

2. Gavin Fien, SS (19) Another big shortstop who could end up at another position.

3. Jose Corniell, RHP (22) Early candidate for the bullpen but was also a starter in the minors.

4. Winston Santos, RHP (23) Gets swings and misses but also needs better command.

5. AJ Russell, RHP (21) Second-round pick last year has a chance to come quickly as a reliever.

6. Alejandro Rosario, RHP (24) Missed all of last year because of Tommy John surgery but has swing-and-miss stuff when healthy.

7. David Davilillo, RHP (23) A 2.73 ERA, 1.02 WHIP and 3.41 K/BB ratio in 12 games (11 starts) at Double-A last year raised his stock.

8. Caden Scarborough, RHP (21) Will be tested at Double-A after a strong year at Single-A last season.

9. John Owens, SS (19) Has speed, and at 6-foot-3 should develop some power.

10. Elorky Rodriguez, 2B/OF (18) Good bat skills, but position remains unknown.

Rangers Roster

President, Baseball Operations: Chris Young • **Manager:** Skip Schumaker • **Coaches:** Rod Barajas (quality control), Dave Bush (asst. pitching), Alex Cintron (hitting), Brett Hayes (catching), Travis Jankowski (first base), Corey Ragsdale (third base), Colby Suggs (bullpen), Jordan Tiegs (pitching), Luis Urueta (bench), Justin Viele (lead hitting)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
13	Tyler Alexander	R-L	6-1	214	7/14/94	**CHICAGO AL**	2-9	4.26	31	1	0	61.1	65	18	52
						MILWAUKEE	3-5	6.19	21	4	1	36.1	42	12	30
	Carter Baumler	R-R	6-2	195	1/31/02	Chesapeake (AA)	0-0	0.00	6	0	0	7.2	3	2	6
						Aberdeen (A+)	2-0	2.45	20	0	2	29.1	19	13	38
						FCL Orioles (R)	0-0	3.38	2	0	0	2.2	3	3	2
61	Cody Bradford	L-L	6-4	197	2/22/98	**TEXAS**	6-3	3.54	14	13	0	76.1	64	13	70
30	Marc Church	R-R	6-3	189	3/30/01	**TEXAS**	0-0	3.86	5	0	0	4.2	4	6	5
						Round Rock (AAA)	0-0	11.57	6	0	0	4.2	10	9	4
						Hub City (A+)	0-1	18.00	1	0	0	1.0	3	0	3
						ACL Rangers (R)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	1.2	0	0	3
59	Jose Corniell	R-R	6-3	165	6/22/03	**TEXAS**	0-1	16.20	1	0	0	1.2	3	1	1
						Round Rock (AAA)	1-1	3.65	3	3	0	12.1	11	6	14
						Frisco (AA)	0-1	0.45	6	6	0	20.0	5	1	20
						ACL Rangers (R)	0-0	3.18	4	4	0	5.2	7	2	7
57	Luis Curvelo	R-R	6-1	170	10/21/00	**TEXAS**	1-1	5.68	17	0	0	19.0	17	10	20
						Round Rock (AAA)	3-3	3.76	36	0	2	40.2	34	19	41
	David Davalillo	R-R	6-1	175	9/21/02	Frisco (AA)	2-3	2.73	12	11	0	56.0	40	17	58
						Hub City (A+)	4-1	2.12	11	11	0	51.0	31	11	68
48	Jacob deGrom	L-R	6-4	180	6/19/88	**TEXAS**	12-8	2.97	30	30	0	172.2	122	37	185
	Alexis Díaz	R-R	6-2	224	9/28/96	**CINCINNATI**	0-0	12.00	6	0	0	6.0	8	5	3
						Louisville (AAA)	1-2	4.61	14	0	2	13.2	14	12	16
						LOS ANGELES NL	1-0	5.00	9	0	0	9.0	7	2	9
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	0-1	8.10	11	0	1	10.0	7	8	10
						ATLANTA	0-0	10.13	3	0	0	2.2	0	5	5
						Gwinnett (AAA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	0	2.0	2	0	4
17	Nathan Eovaldi	R-R	6-2	217	2/13/90	**TEXAS**	11-3	1.73	22	22	0	130.0	90	21	129
62	Robert Garcia	R-L	6-4	236	6/14/96	**TEXAS**	4-8	2.95	71	0	9	64.0	58	22	68
	Dom Hamel	R-R	6-2	206	3/2/99	**NEW YORK NL**	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	1.0	3	0	0
						Syracuse (AAA)	4-6	5.32	31	11	1	67.2	68	22	75
67	Jacob Latz	R-L	6-2	185	4/8/96	**TEXAS**	2-0	2.84	33	8	1	85.2	69	37	76
						Round Rock (AAA)	0-2	1.84	9	1	0	14.2	10	11	22
35	Jack Leiter	R-R	6-1	205	4/21/00	**TEXAS**	10-10	3.86	29	29	0	151.2	127	67	148
						Round Rock (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	4.2	1	1	4
	Leandro Lopez	R-R	6-1	200	6/17/02	Frisco (AA)	1-0	2.78	9	8	0	35.2	25	15	43
						Hub City (A+)	2-4	2.19	14	14	0	65.2	46	26	73
47	Chris Martin	R-R	6-8	224	6/2/86	**TEXAS**	2-6	2.98	49	0	2	42.1	43	8	43
						Frisco (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	1.0	0	0	1
	Michel Otañez	R-R	6-4	218	7/3/97	**ATHLETICS**	0-0	13.50	6	0	0	5.1	7	5	6
						Las Vegas (AAA)	2-2	7.27	18	0	0	17.1	19	17	26
						Stockton (A)	0-0	13.50	1	0	0	0.2	0	1	2
80	Kumar Rocker	R-R	6-5	245	11/22/99	**TEXAS**	4-5	5.74	14	14	0	64.1	71	23	56
						Round Rock (AAA)	1-0	3.94	4	4	0	16.0	14	3	15
						Frisco (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	3.0	2	0	3
84	Winston Santos	R-R	6-0	160	4/15/02	Round Rock (AAA)	0-0	2.45	1	1	0	3.2	3	2	4
						Frisco (AA)	0-0	7.90	5	5	0	13.2	19	5	22
82	Emiliano Teodo	R-R	6-1	165	2/14/01	Round Rock (AAA)	2-1	9.00	14	0	0	18.0	19	17	23
						Frisco (AA)	1-1	5.59	11	0	0	9.2	6	12	10
60	Cole Winn	R-R	6-2	190	11/25/99	**TEXAS**	0-1	1.51	33	0	0	41.2	23	17	35
						Round Rock (AAA)	3-1	0.59	17	0	0	30.2	17	14	25

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
11	Kyle Higashioka	R-R	6-0	202	4/20/90	**TEXAS**	.241	94	303	33	73	11	47	20	72	3
						Round Rock (AAA)	.250	2	8	1	2	0	0	0	4	0
	Danny Jansen	R-R	6-1	240	4/15/95	**TAMPA BAY**	.204	73	221	28	45	11	29	33	68	0
						MILWAUKEE	.254	25	67	10	17	3	7	9	18	0
	Willie MacIver	R-R	6-2	205	10/28/96	**ATHLETICS**	.186	33	102	7	19	3	9	7	27	3
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.362	54	207	43	75	7	56	21	44	8

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
21	Jake Burger	R-R	6-0	230	4/10/96	**TEXAS**	.236	103	356	43	84	16	53	12	93	1
						Round Rock (AAA)	.444	9	36	9	16	3	12	4	2	0
						Frisco (AA)	.182	3	11	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
20	Ezequiel Duran	R-R	5-10	185	5/22/99	**TEXAS**	.224	90	205	16	46	0	14	8	55	11
						Round Rock (AAA)	.345	14	55	13	19	4	4	4	13	5
56	Justin Foscue	R-R	5-11	205	3/2/99	**TEXAS**	.111	4	9	0	1	0	2	0	3	0
						Round Rock (AAA)	.261	103	399	65	104	19	68	45	63	7
						ACL Rangers (R)	.000	3	8	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
39	Cody Freeman	R-R	5-8	180	1/5/01	**TEXAS**	.228	36	114	13	26	3	15	5	19	1
						Round Rock (AAA)	.336	97	384	75	129	19	71	32	37	8
6	Josh Jung	R-R	6-1	214	2/12/98	**TEXAS**	.251	131	482	53	121	14	61	27	129	4
						Round Rock (AAA)	.205	8	39	4	8	2	4	1	8	0
						Frisco (AA)	.400	2	5	0	2	0	2	1	0	0
	Abimelec Ortiz	L-L	5-10	230	2/22/02	Round Rock (AAA)	.283	41	138	32	39	9	33	21	36	1
						Frisco (AA)	.247	89	340	53	84	16	56	44	87	3
4	Joc Pederson	L-L	6-1	220	4/21/92	**TEXAS**	.181	96	265	28	48	9	26	34	65	2
5	Corey Seager	L-R	6-3	215	4/27/94	**TEXAS**	.271	102	380	61	103	21	50	58	87	3
8	Josh Smith	L-R	5-9	172	8/7/97	**TEXAS**	.251	144	495	70	124	10	35	55	100	12

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
32	Evan Carter	L-R	6-3	190	8/29/02	**TEXAS**	.247	63	194	31	48	5	25	19	41	14
						Round Rock (AAA)	.207	24	87	13	18	3	10	14	26	6
0	Sam Haggerty	S-R	5-11	175	5/26/94	**TEXAS**	.253	64	162	31	41	2	13	16	37	12
						Round Rock (AAA)	.302	23	86	14	26	1	12	9	21	7
24	Michael Helman	R-R	6-0	195	5/23/96	**TEXAS**	.232	38	99	18	23	5	20	7	21	4
						Round Rock (AAA)	.245	53	216	41	53	8	32	15	45	11
						Memphis (AAA)	.185	18	65	12	12	1	5	6	16	1
36	Wyatt Langford	R-R	6-0	225	11/15/01	**TEXAS**	.241	134	489	73	118	22	62	74	151	22
						Frisco (AA)	.333	3	9	3	3	2	2	2	1	0
24	Brandon Nimmo	L-R	6-2	206	3/27/93	**NEW YORK NL**	.262	155	587	81	154	25	92	50	141	13
19	Alejandro Osuna	L-L	5-9	185	10/10/02	**TEXAS**	.212	63	151	12	32	2	15	21	34	5
						Round Rock (AAA)	.292	15	48	10	14	0	1	16	10	4
						Frisco (AA)	.267	37	146	28	39	2	16	13	25	10

Atlanta BRAVES

2026 PREDICTION
3RD
NL EAST
2025 FINISH: 4TH (76-86)

The Braves saw a seven-year postseason streak end in 2025 thanks in part to a flood of injuries to the pitching staff, plus some prolonged absences from key hitters. The Braves are starting fresh in 2026 with a new manager and some new additions over the winter that give their fans hope that a new postseason streak could begin this season. Should the Braves avoid the injury bug, a return to the playoffs is their expectation.

RONALD ACUÑA JR.

CARY EDMONDSON-IMAGN IMAGES

ROTATION

The Braves will enter 2026 with the same five-man starting rotation they planned on for 2025 — Chris Sale, Spencer Strider, Spencer Schwellenbach, Reynaldo López and Grant Holmes. The problem last season? That quintet combined for just 82 starts, with no one exceeding 23. On paper, this is a promising group. Sale won the Cy Young in 2024 and has been an All-Star in both seasons in Atlanta. Spencer Strider led the majors in strikeouts in 2023. Schwellenbach has a 1.01 WHIP in two years in the big leagues. López was an All-Star in 2024 after reviving his career as a starter. And Holmes has averaged better than a strikeout per inning since making his debut in 2024. But will they stay healthy? Sale missed 10 weeks with a broken rib last season but came back and made his last six starts. He was 7-5 with a 2.58 ERA, and he allowed one run or fewer in 12 of his 21 outings. Strider missed a month with a right hamstring strain but still made 23 starts in his return from UCL surgery that limited his 2024 season to two starts. The second year after UCL surgery is typically more effective for pitchers, so the hope is that he will regain the form that had him fourth in the Cy Young voting in 2023. A fractured right elbow ended Schwellenbach's promising season in June, but he was reportedly throwing at full strength in November and should be 100%. Schwellenbach's repertoire continued to expand in his second season, and he may have the most upside in the rotation outside of Sale.

BULLPEN

The Braves re-signed closer Raisel Iglesias to a one-year, $16 million deal and then signed San Diego Padres closer Robert Suarez to a three-year, $45 million contract. Iglesias is slated to remain the Braves' closer for the fourth straight year, and Suarez, who led the NL with 40 saves, will be the primary setup man. That is a strong 1-2 punch at the back end. Beyond the dual closers, lefties Aaron Bummer (3.81 ERA in 42 games) and Dylan Lee (3.29 ERA in 74 games) are known quantities. Joe Jiménez's status is uncertain as the season approaches. He missed last season after knee surgery, then had more knee surgery in November. He was effective for Atlanta in 2023 and '24 but cannot be counted on.

MIDDLE INFIELD

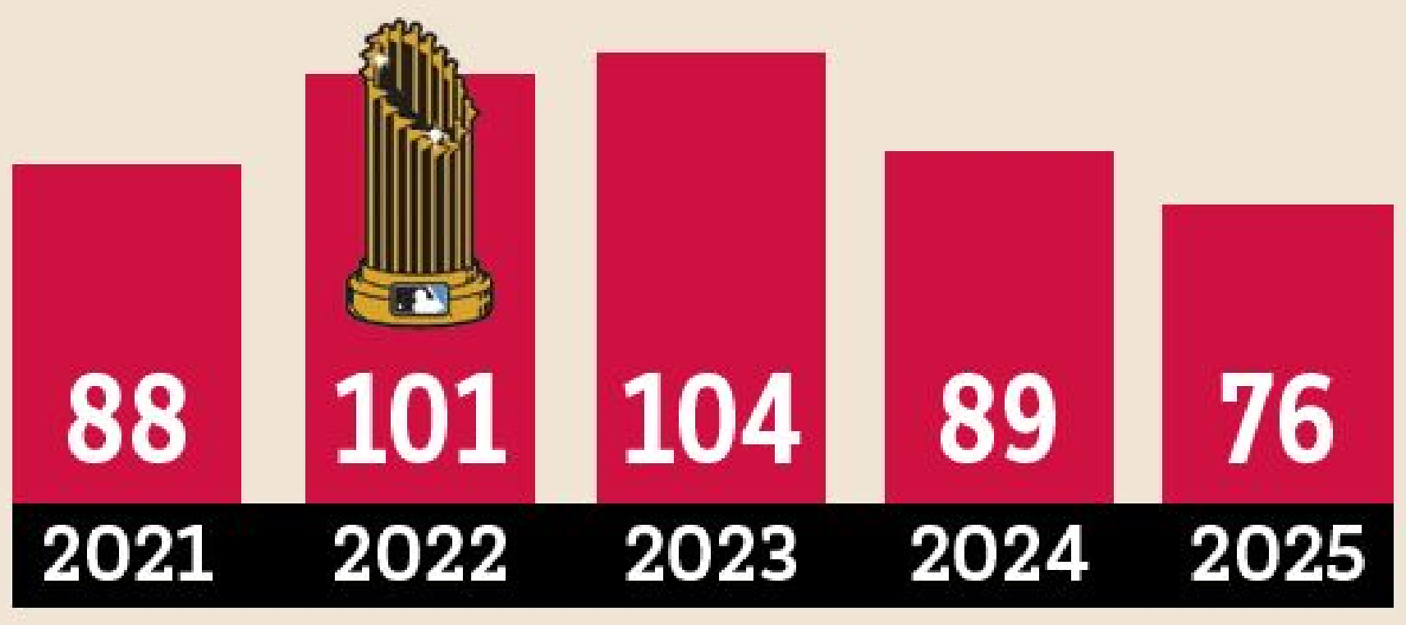
The Braves hope they have shored up the shortstop position, which has been spotty since Dansby Swanson left after the 2022 season. After picking up Ha-Seong Kim off waivers last September and giving him an up-close look,

Truist Park

Opened: 2017 • Capacity: 41,108
Left: 335′ Center: 400′ Right: 325′
Tickets: 404-577-9100
mlb.com/BRAVES

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Fastest average bat speed among qualified NL hitters, 2025

1. Oneil Cruz, Pirates	78.8 mph
2. Jordan Walker, Cardinals	78.1 mph
3. Kyle Schwarber, Phillies	77.3 mph
4. Ronald Acuña Jr., Braves	**76.4 mph**
5. James Wood, Nationals	76.0 mph

the Braves signed the former Gold Glover to a one-year, $20 million contract. Kim was hurt for most of 2025 with the Tampa Bay Rays before being waived, but he had a solid three-year run as the San Diego Padres' starting shortstop. The Braves picked up Ozzie Albies' team option at $7 million despite a notable decline in production at the plate the past two seasons and diminished fielding capabilities due to a variety of injuries. Albies ended the season on the injured list with a broken hamate bone suffered in September, but he is expected to be 100% by spring training. Should Albies struggle, Plan B for the Braves would seem to be Mauricio Dubón, a play-anywhere guy who won a Gold Glove with the Houston Astros in the utility category in 2023 and '25.

CORNERS

For the fifth straight year, it will be Matt Olson at first base and Austin Riley at third. And the Braves hope that combo is in place for quite some time, as Olson is under team control until 2030 and Riley until 2033. The two will slot in the middle of the lineup and should provide a dose of power. Riley ended the past two seasons on the injured list and saw his power decline last season with just 16 home runs in 102 games, potentially due to lingering effects of his hand surgery in 2024. He averaged 32 the previous four seasons. Olson is coming off his third All-Star appearance and won his third Gold Glove in 2025. He led the NL with 41 doubles and had a team-high 29 home runs and 95 RBIs.

MATT OLSON

OUTFIELD

Ronald Acuña Jr. is one of the most talented players in franchise history, but unfortunately due to a variety of injuries, he's averaged only 101 games over the past five years. Acuña missed the first 49 last season recovering from the second ACL injury of his career, but he stayed relatively healthy the rest of the season. Acuña still managed 21 home runs and hit .290, winning National League Comeback Player of the Year honors. Michael Harris II will be back in center field after another stellar defensive season. At the plate, Harris was hot and cold, but the final numbers continued a disturbing trend of declining for the third straight year almost across the board since his Rookie of the Year season in 2022. In left field, Jurickson Profar is back after missing the front half of 2025 due to an 80-game PED suspension. Profar returned to give Atlanta decent production from the position. The Braves signed Mike Yastrzemski as a fourth outfielder. Yastrzemski is a plus defender and productive against right-handed pitching. He may platoon in left while Profar sees some at-bats at DH.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

RF	Ronald Acuña Jr. (R)
3B	Austin Riley (R)
1B	Max Olson (L)
C	Drake Baldwin (L)
DH	Sean Murphy (R)
2B	Ozzie Albies (S)
LF	Jurickson Profar (S)
SS	Ha-Seong Kim (R)
CF	Michael Harris II (L)

■ BENCH

OF	Mike Yastrzemski (L)
INF	Mauricio Dubón (R)
OF	Eli White (R)
INF	Nacho Alvarez Jr. (R)

■ ROTATION

LHP	Chris Sale
RHP	Spencer Strider
RHP	Spencer Schwellenbach
RHP	Reynaldo López
RHP	Grant Holmes

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Raisel Iglesias (C)
RHP	Robert Suarez
LHP	Dylan Lee
LHP	Aaron Bummer
RHP	Joe Jiménez
RHP	Dylan Dodd
RHP	Hurston Waldrep
RHP	Bryce Elder

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE BRAVES "Take Shohei Ohtani out of the equation, but if you look at a fully healthy Ronald Acuña Jr., that's the guy I'm starting my team with. I love everything about him — OK, I don't like his antics on the home runs — but I mean, his outfield play, no one ever talks about his arm, but it is Roberto Clemente-esque. We saw what he did a couple of years ago with the home runs and stolen bases, he can hit for average, and he can hit for power. But staying on the field has been something that's not easy for him to do. But if he can stay healthy, with Ozzie Albies, Austin Riley and Matt Olson, they're going to really challenge Philly. Because you figure Spencer Strider will bounce back to go with Chris Sale and all those kids. They were smart to bulk up their bullpen by adding Robert Suarez to Raisel Iglesias and Dylan Lee, and I love Mike Yastrzemski as a quality role player who kills righties."

JEROME MIRON-IMAGN IMAGES

CATCHING

NL Rookie of the Year Drake Baldwin will be hard to keep off the field after hitting .274 with 19 home runs. He had 85 starts at catcher and 12 at designated hitter. Sean Murphy has three years and $45 million remaining on his contract, plus a $15 million club option with no buyout, so the Braves may be willing to listen to offers for Murphy if Baldwin continues to excel. Murphy played through a labral tear in his right hip and had surgery in September. He is expected back in April and gives the Braves two strong options behind the plate. There could be occasions when one of the two will DH, as happened 19 times last season.

DH/BENCH

It appears that new manager Walt Weiss will rotate the DH spot among Yastrzemski, Profar and his two catchers, while also potentially giving Acuña some days off in the field to keep his legs fresh. Dubón will primarily be a middle infielder, but he can fill in anywhere on the diamond except catcher.

MANAGEMENT

Weiss, the team's bench coach for the past eight seasons, takes over after 10 years of Brian Snitker calling the shots. Snitker remains with the team in a front office role. Weiss, who managed the Colorado Rockies from 2013-16 and never had a winning season, was tabbed in early November after a month-long search.

FINAL ANALYSIS

There is a path for the Braves to return to the postseason under Weiss. Sale needs to continue to be the clear No. 1, while Strider and Schwellenbach can provide elite support as the No. 2 and No. 3 options behind him, provided all three stay healthy. If the back end of the bullpen works as advertised, the Braves are going to win a lot of games. As far as the offense, there has been decline at multiple spots, so Acuña, Riley and Olson will likely have to carry a heavy load.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

LEADING MAN Who will bat leadoff for the Braves? Ronald Acuña Jr. has owned that spot for the majority of his career, but Jurickson Profar proved to be capable in the leadoff spot in the second half of last season with an on-base percentage of .362 in 72 games at the top of the order. That leaves the possibility of moving Acuña down to the No. 3 spot, where his power can be used in more RBI situations. However, if Acuña follows the same pattern recovering from his first ACL injury, the leadoff spot might be for him. In his second season removed from his first ACL surgery in 2023, he stole 73 bases and had one of the most effective seasons a leadoff hitter has ever had. Should he feel confident his legs are 100% back, that is likely where he ends up.

ROCKET ARM In the first game after the All-Star break on July 18, Acuña put on another display of his awesome talent against the Yankees. This time, it was in the field. With runners on first and second in the third inning, Acuña caught a deep fly ball near the foul line in right field with his back toward center field. He quickly whirled and threw a strike to Nacho Alvarez Jr. at third to double off a shocked Jorvit Vivas, who didn't even slide into third base because he thought he would easily reach third after tagging up. At 301 feet, with no crow-hop, it was the longest outfield assist with no bounce since Mookie Betts in 2020.

HIGHS AND LOWS Grant Holmes experienced some highs and lows in a June 15 game against the Colorado Rockies. Holmes piled up 15 strikeouts, which tied for the second-most in franchise history for a nine-inning game. He had 14 in just six innings, then recorded another in the seventh, leaving the game with the Braves trailing 2-1. Holmes struck out 15 of the 24 batters he faced, but the Braves bullpen could not keep Atlanta in the game, and the Rockies, who were 13-57 at this point, won 10-1.

Schedule

🟥 HOME ⬜ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26	27 🟥 KC	28 🟥 KC
29 🟥 KC	30 🟥 A's	31 🟥 A's	1 🟥 A's	2 ⬜ ARI	3 ⬜ ARI	4 ⬜ ARI
5 ⬜ ARI	6 ⬜ LAA	7 ⬜ LAA	8 ⬜ LAA	9	10 🟥 CLE	11 🟥 CLE
12 🟥 CLE	13 🟥 MIA	14 🟥 MIA	15 🟥 MIA	16	17 ⬜ PHI	18 ⬜ PHI
19 ⬜ PHI	20 ⬜ WAS	21 ⬜ WAS	22 ⬜ WAS	23 ⬜ WAS	24 🟥 PHI	25 🟥 PHI
26 🟥 PHI	27	28 🟥 DET	29 🟥 DET	30 🟥 DET		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ⬜ COL	2 ⬜ COL
3 ⬜ COL	4 ⬜ SEA	5 ⬜ SEA	6 ⬜ SEA	7	8 ⬜ LAD	9 ⬜ LAD
10 ⬜ LAD	11	12 🟥 CHC	13 🟥 CHC	14 🟥 CHC	15 🟥 BOS	16 🟥 BOS
17 🟥 BOS	18 ⬜ MIA	19 ⬜ MIA	20 ⬜ MIA	21 ⬜ MIA	22 🟥 WAS	23 🟥 WAS
24 🟥 WAS	25	26 ⬜ BOS	27 ⬜ BOS	28 ⬜ BOS	29 ⬜ CIN	30 ⬜ CIN
31 ⬜ CIN						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2 🟥 TOR	3 🟥 TOR	4 🟥 TOR	5 🟥 PIT	6 🟥 PIT
7 🟥 PIT	8	9 ⬜ CWS	10 ⬜ CWS	11 ⬜ CWS	12 ⬜ NYM	13 ⬜ NYM
14 ⬜ NYM	15	16 🟥 SF	17 🟥 SF	18 🟥 SF	19 🟥 MIL	20 🟥 MIL
21 🟥 MIL	22 ⬜ SD	23 ⬜ SD	24 ⬜ SD	25	26 ⬜ SF	27 ⬜ SF
28 ⬜ SF	29	30 🟥 STL				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 🟥 STL	2 🟥 STL	3 🟥 NYM	4 🟥 NYM
5 🟥 NYM	6 🟥 NYM	7 ⬜ PIT	8 ⬜ PIT	9 ⬜ PIT	10 ⬜ STL	11 ⬜ STL
12 ⬜ STL	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 🟥 TEX	18 🟥 TEX
19 🟥 TEX	20 🟥 SD	21 🟥 SD	22 🟥 SD	23 🟥 SD	24 ⬜ BAL	25 ⬜ BAL
26 ⬜ BAL	27 ⬜ NYM	28 ⬜ NYM	29 ⬜ NYM	30 🟥 WAS	31 🟥 WAS	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 🟥 WAS
2 🟥 WAS	3	4 🟥 MIA	5 🟥 MIA	6 🟥 MIA	7 ⬜ NYY	8 ⬜ NYY
9 ⬜ NYY	10 🟥 NYM	11 🟥 NYM	12 🟥 NYM	13	14 🟥 ARI	15 🟥 ARI
16 🟥 ARI	17 ⬜ MIN	18 ⬜ MIN	19 ⬜ MIN	20	21 ⬜ MIL	22 ⬜ MIL
23 ⬜ MIL	24	25 🟥 LAD	26 🟥 LAD	27 🟥 LAD	28 🟥 COL	29 🟥 COL
30 🟥 COL	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 ⬜ WAS	2 ⬜ WAS	3	4 ⬜ PHI	5 ⬜ PHI
6 ⬜ PHI	7 ⬜ PHI	8 🟥 TB	9 🟥 TB	10 🟥 TB	11 🟥 PHI	12 🟥 PHI
13 🟥 PHI	14 ⬜ CHC	15 ⬜ CHC	16 ⬜ CHC	17	18 ⬜ HOU	19 ⬜ HOU
20 ⬜ HOU	21	22 🟥 CIN	23 🟥 CIN	24 🟥 CIN	25 ⬜ MIA	26 ⬜ MIA
27 ⬜ MIA	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

162 Ronald Acuña Jr.'s OPS+ in 95 games, which would have had him behind only Aaron Judge, Shohei Ohtani and Cal Raleigh had he had enough at-bats to qualify among league leaders

◆

782 Consecutive games played by Matt Olson, which is the longest active streak in MLB, 12th all-time and second this century to Miguel Tejada's 1,152.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

KEVIN JAIRAJ-USA TODAY SPORTS

- **1. Cam Caminiti, LHP (19)** The Braves' first-round pick in 2024 had 17 starts with a 3.09 ERA in rookie ball and Single-A.

2. JR Ritchie, RHP (22) Moved from High-A to Double-A to Triple-A with 26 starts and a 2.64 ERA for the year.

3. Tate Southisine, SS/OF (19) The 2025 first-rounder's athleticism makes up for his smallish frame.

4. Alex Lodise, SS (22) Lodise hit .252 in 25 games at High-A Rome.

5. Briggs McKenzie, LHP (19) Has a plus curveball but must add strength to maintain velocity on his fastball.

6. Garrett Baumann, RHP (21) Six-foot-eight righty had 108 strikeouts in 113.2 innings at Rome.

7. Didier Fuentes, RHP (20) Made four starts in Atlanta in 2025 but was not ready (13.85 ERA).

8. Owen Murphy, RHP (22) Missed most of 2025 after Tommy John surgery but made a promising return late in the season in Rome.

9. Conor Essenburg, OF (19) Will get a look in the outfield but has pitching potential as well.

10. Drue Hackenburg RHP (23) Struggled in 2025 (6.81 ERA, .279 BAA) and must rebound.

Braves Roster

President, Baseball Operations & General Manager: Alex Anthopoulos • **Manager**: Walt Weiss • **Coaches:** Darnell Coles (asst. hitting), Tony Diaz, Dustin Garneau (catching), Jeremy Hefner (pitching), Tim Hyers (hitting), Tony Mansolino (bench), J.P. Martinez (bullpen), Eddie Pérez, Antoan Richardson (first base), Tommy Watkins (third base)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
49	Aaron Bummer	L-L	6-3	215	9/21/93	**ATLANTA**	3-2	3.81	42	2	0	54.1	51	17	51
46	Dylan Dodd	L-L	6-2	210	6/6/98	**ATLANTA**	1-0	3.60	28	0	0	35.0	28	5	30
						Gwinnett (AAA)	2-1	4.26	24	0	0	25.1	27	3	32
55	Bryce Elder	R-R	6-2	220	5/19/99	**ATLANTA**	8-11	5.30	28	28	0	156.1	167	51	131
						Gwinnett (AAA)	0-2	8.76	3	3	0	12.1	16	6	16
75	Didier Fuentes	R-R	6-0	170	6/17/05	**ATLANTA**	0-3	13.85	4	4	0	13.0	23	6	12
						Gwinnett (AAA)	1-1	3.63	5	5	0	22.1	20	4	29
						Columbus (AA)	0-5	4.98	5	5	0	21.2	21	7	24
						Rome (A+)	0-1	5.54	3	3	0	13.0	8	5	18
	Ian Hamilton	R-R	6-1	200	6/16/95	**NEW YORK AL**	2-1	4.28	36	1	0	40.0	28	22	42
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	1-0	6.00	19	0	0	18.0	23	12	20
79	Hayden Harris	L-L	6-0	186	3/2/99	**ATLANTA**	0-0	3.38	3	0	0	2.2	3	2	0
						Gwinnett (AAA)	2-0	0.31	25	0	1	29.1	9	12	42
						Columbus (AA)	4-0	0.79	18	0	3	22.2	11	7	37
62	Daysbel Hernández	R-R	5-10	220	9/15/96	**ATLANTA**	4-3	3.41	39	0	0	37.0	27	30	33
						Gwinnett (AAA)	0-0	2.25	8	0	3	8.0	3	3	11
66	Grant Holmes	L-R	6-0	226	3/22/96	**ATLANTA**	4-9	3.99	22	21	0	115.0	100	54	123
26	Raisel Iglesias	R-R	6-2	190	1/4/90	**ATLANTA**	4-6	3.21	70	0	29	67.1	51	16	73
77	Joe Jiménez	R-R	6-3	277	1/17/95	Injured — Missed Season									
81	Jhancarlos Lara	R-R	6-3	190	1/15/03	Gwinnett (AAA)	0-5	6.53	28	9	0	51.0	30	46	78
						Columbus (AA)	0-4	11.21	6	5	0	17.2	23	19	26
52	Dylan Lee	L-L	6-3	214	8/1/94	**ATLANTA**	2-4	3.29	74	0	2	68.1	53	14	76
40	Reynaldo López	R-R	6-1	225	1/4/94	**ATLANTA**	0-0	5.40	1	1	0	5.0	9	2	1
70	Rolddy Muñoz	R-R	6-2	183	4/14/00	**ATLANTA**	0-0	12.27	3	0	0	3.2	4	5	5
						Gwinnett (AAA)	1-1	4.15	16	2	0	21.2	17	10	25
						Columbus (AA)	2-2	2.11	25	1	6	38.1	28	23	34
	Joel Payamps	R-R	6-3	214	4/7/94	**ATLANTA**	0-0	3.38	2	0	0	2.2	2	0	2
						MILWAUKEE	0-1	7.23	28	0	1	23.2	29	9	22
						Nashville (AAA)	1-1	4.73	27	0	6	26.2	24	6	30
51	Chris Sale	L-L	6-6	180	3/30/89	**ATLANTA**	7-5	2.58	21	20	0	125.2	102	32	165
						Gwinnett (AAA)	0-1	2.53	3	3	0	10.2	10	3	11
56	Spencer Schwellenbach	R-R	6-1	200	5/31/00	**ATLANTA**	7-4	3.09	17	17	0	110.2	89	18	108
32	AJ Smith-Shawver	R-R	6-3	205	11/20/02	**ATLANTA**	3-2	3.86	9	9	0	44.1	42	21	42
						Gwinnett (AAA)	0-1	4.82	2	2	0	9.1	9	4	13
65	Hunter Stratton	R-R	6-4	225	11/17/96	**ATLANTA**	1-1	2.20	12	0	1	16.1	13	5	15
						Gwinnett (AAA)	1-1	1.59	10	0	0	11.1	7	3	11
						Columbus (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	1.0	0	1	2
						PITTSBURGH	0-0	23.63	3	0	0	2.2	10	2	1
						Indianapolis (AAA)	0-1	3.65	21	0	1	24.2	23	8	24
99	Spencer Strider	R-R	6-0	195	10/28/98	**ATLANTA**	7-14	4.45	23	23	0	125.1	124	51	131
						Gwinnett (AAA)	1-0	1.32	3	3	0	13.2	5	5	27
54	José Suarez	L-L	5-10	225	1/3/98	**ATLANTA**	2-0	1.86	7	1	1	19.1	15	10	16
						Gwinnett (AAA)	3-1	3.53	9	8	0	43.1	42	9	50
						Columbus (AA)	1-0	4.02	3	3	0	15.2	12	3	15
75	Robert Suarez	R-R	6-2	210	3/1/91	**SAN DIEGO**	4-6	2.97	70	0	40	69.2	47	16	75
64	Hurston Waldrep	R-R	6-2	210	3/1/02	**ATLANTA**	6-1	2.88	10	9	0	56.1	45	22	55
						Gwinnett (AAA)	7-8	4.42	19	19	0	91.2	85	50	92
33	Joey Wentz	L-L	6-5	220	10/6/97	**ATLANTA**	3-6	4.92	14	13	0	64.0	68	23	64
						PITTSBURGH	2-1	4.15	19	0	0	26.0	25	11	22
						MINNESOTA	0-0	15.75	6	0	0	8.0	17	9	6
	Danny Young	L-L	6-3	200	5/27/94	**NEW YORK NL**	0-0	4.32	10	0	0	8.1	9	3	13

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
30	Drake Baldwin	L-R	6-1	225	3/28/01	**ATLANTA**	.274	124	405	56	111	19	80	38	68	0
12	Sean Murphy	R-R	6-3	228	10/4/94	**ATLANTA**	.199	94	291	34	58	16	45	35	105	0
						Gwinnett (AAA)	.200	3	10	1	2	1	2	0	1	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1	Ozzie Albies	S-R	5-7	165	1/7/97	**ATLANTA**	.240	157	603	74	145	16	74	55	94	14
24	Nacho Alvarez Jr.	R-R	5-10	190	4/11/03	**ATLANTA**	.234	58	188	18	44	2	15	12	49	0
						Gwinnett (AAA)	.254	18	63	10	16	1	7	11	15	0
2	Vidal Bruján	S-R	5-9	180	2/9/98	**ATLANTA**	.268	24	41	8	11	0	5	5	9	0
						BALTIMORE	1.000	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
						CHICAGO NL	.222	36	45	6	10	0	3	1	12	2
						Iowa (AAA)	.308	3	13	0	4	0	0	0	4	1
1	Mauricio Dubón	R-R	6-0	173	7/19/94	**HOUSTON**	.241	133	369	43	89	7	33	24	42	3
7	Ha-Seong Kim	R-R	5-10	200	10/17/95	**ATLANTA**	.253	24	87	14	22	3	12	8	16	0
						TAMPA BAY	.214	24	84	5	18	2	5	8	23	6
						Durham (AAA)	.208	21	72	11	15	0	6	15	10	6
28	Matt Olson	L-R	6-4	225	3/29/94	**ATLANTA**	.272	162	624	98	170	29	95	91	176	1
27	Austin Riley	R-R	6-2	225	4/2/97	**ATLANTA**	.260	102	416	54	108	16	54	27	128	2
0	Brett Wisely	L-R	5-9	185	5/8/99	**ATLANTA**	.000	4	6	0	0	0	0	3	4	0
						Gwinnett (AAA)	.375	2	8	0	3	0	0	1	1	0
						SAN FRANCISCO	.208	22	48	5	10	1	10	4	10	1
						Sacramento (AAA)	.253	80	300	45	76	7	42	33	66	12

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
13	Ronald Acuña Jr.	R-R	6-0	205	12/18/97	**ATLANTA**	.290	95	338	74	98	21	42	71	102	9
						Gwinnett (AAA)	.417	5	12	6	5	1	1	7	2	0
23	Michael Harris II	L-L	6-0	195	3/7/01	**ATLANTA**	.249	160	611	55	152	20	86	16	128	20
17	Jurickson Profar	S-R	5-11	184	2/20/93	**ATLANTA**	.245	80	318	56	78	14	43	48	59	9
						Gwinnett (AAA)	.333	13	48	7	16	3	9	8	6	0
36	Eli White	R-R	6-3	195	6/26/94	**ATLANTA**	.234	105	256	43	60	10	35	11	70	10
18	Mike Yastrzemski	L-L	5-11	180	8/23/90	**SAN FRANCISCO**	.231	97	321	38	74	8	28	47	86	6
						KANSAS CITY	.237	50	156	30	37	9	18	25	22	1

Miami MARLINS

2026 PREDICTION

4TH

NL EAST

2025 FINISH: 3RD (79-83)

No one expected the 2025 Marlins (79-83) to flirt with a postseason berth until the final days of the season, but that's exactly what a 17-win improvement will do. Now comes the time to see whether Miami can continue trending up in 2026.

The Marlins, seemingly ahead of president of baseball operations Peter Bendix's schedule to achieve sustainable success, believe they can compete in 2026 without mortgaging their vision. Players in the earlier stages of their big-league careers and prospects alike will be given reps to develop and prove they are part of the puzzle.

EURY PÉREZ

BENNY SIEU-IMAGN IMAGES

ROTATION

Despite dealing Edward Cabrera after a breakout campaign, Miami could boast one of the deeper starting-pitching groups in the majors, though injuries will always be a concern. Sandy Alcantara's return from Tommy John surgery wasn't smooth, with a 5.36 ERA (third-highest among qualifying MLB pitchers), but that number did drop to 2.68 over his final eight starts, which could be a sign for 2026. Righty Eury Pérez (104 ERA+), who also came back from Tommy John surgery, makes for a formidable 1-2 punch atop the rotation. Lefthander Ryan Weathers (left lat strain, left flexor muscle strain) and righthander Max Meyer (left hip surgery), both of whom missed substantial time for a second straight season, had been showcasing some of their best stuff and velocity until their injuries. Southpaw Braxton Garrett will be returning from a second Tommy John surgery, so the Marlins won't rush him. Others in the fold include righties Adam Mazur, Ryan Gusto and Janson Junk as well as elite prospect Robby Snelling.

BULLPEN

Miami fortified the back end of its bullpen with an established closer in righthander Pete Fairbanks, who signed a one-year deal worth $13 million — the all-time highest annual salary that the organization has given to a reliever. The Marlins, however, did lose breakout arm Ronny Henriquez (tied for second-most strikeouts among National League relievers) to a right elbow UCL reconstruction surgery with an associated internal brace. A trio of returning righties will be called upon to mix and match in the latter frames: Anthony Bender saw his career year (205 ERA+) halted in August by a right tibial stress reaction; Calvin Faucher collected a team-high 15 saves; and Tyler Phillips emerged as a late-inning option (159 ERA+). The big question mark lies among the lefthanders. Will Andrew Nardi's back trouble go away? He hasn't pitched since August 2024. Cade Gibson held his own as a rookie (168 ERA+), but Josh Simpson struggled in his first taste of The Show (7.34 ERA in 31 outings).

MIDDLE INFIELD

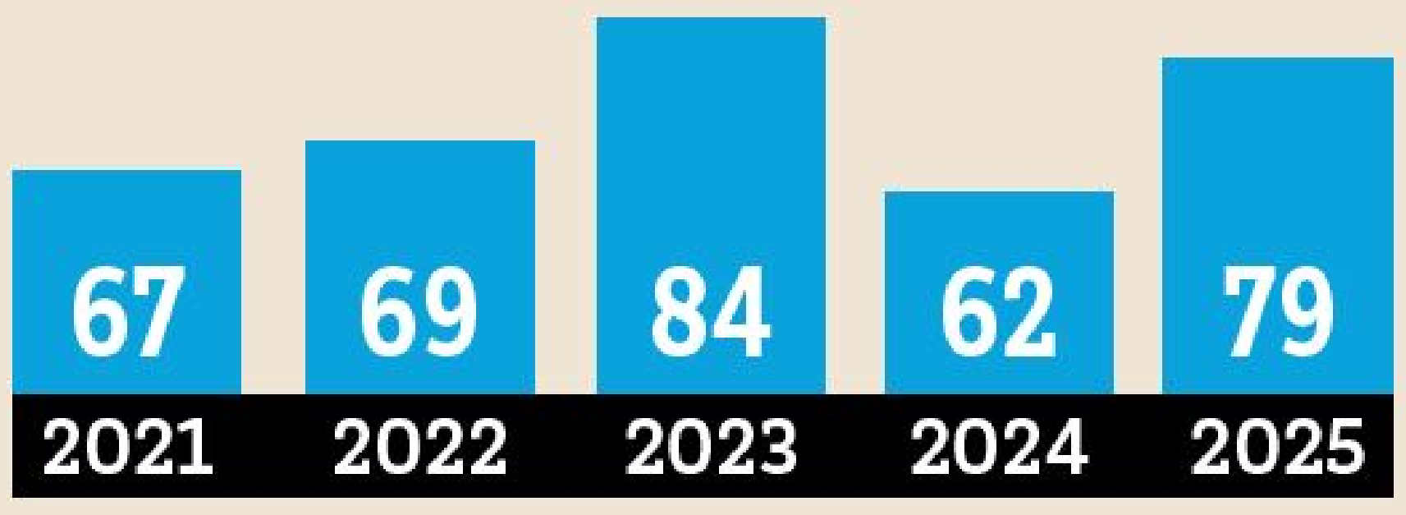
In 2025, the Marlins elected to give Xavier Edwards a shot at shortstop. The experiment lasted only into late May, when Edwards returned from the injured list

LoanDepot Park

Opened: 2012 • Capacity: 36,742
Left: 344′ Center: 400′ Right: 335′
Tickets: 305-480-2525
mlb.com/MARLINS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Highest single-season team average fastball velocity from starting pitchers, 2007-25

1. 2023 Marlins	**96.1 mph**
2. 2025 Marlins	**95.7 mph**
3. 2023 Rays	95.7 mph
4. 2025 Rays	95.6 mph
5. 2024 Mariners	95.6 mph

and switched positions with second baseman Otto Lopez. It worked out for the betterment of both players and the team. Edwards was a Gold Glove finalist, while Lopez recorded seven defensive runs saved and four outs above average at short. Edwards stayed in the batting title race into mid-August before slumping for a stretch during his first full season. He provides the lineup with a more traditional presence in the leadoff spot. Though Lopez finished with an 86 OPS+ in his first season as an MLB regular, he did homer 15 times — the most by a Marlins shortstop since Hanley Ramirez in 2010.

CORNERS

The Marlins eyed Connor Norby as a cornerstone, but he never could get going in 2025 with three stints on the injured list that limited him to 88 games and a .689 OPS. The third-base job is Norby's to lose; he will have competition from Graham Pauley, who developed into one of the majors' top defenders at the hot corner in a small sample (three DRS, six OAA), and Gold Glove-winning utility player Javier Sanoja. Free-agent signing Christopher Morel will primarily play first, where he has never appeared in his career. The Marlins hope they can tap into his Chicago Cubs days, when he had 60 homers in 323 games. Other options include Liam Hicks, Griffin Conine, Heriberto Hernández and Pauley.

PROJECTED LINEUP

LINEUP

2B	Xavier Edwards (S)
CF	Jakob Marsee (L)
C	Agustín Ramírez (R)
LF	Kyle Stowers (L)
1B	Christopher Morel (R)
RF	Owen Caissie (L)
SS	Otto Lopez (R)
DH	Griffin Conine (L)
3B	Connor Norby (R)

BENCH

UTIL	Javier Sanoja (R)
C/1B	Liam Hicks (L)
INF	Graham Pauley (L)
OF	Heriberto Hernández (R)

ROTATION

RHP	Sandy Alcantara
RHP	Eury Pérez
LHP	Ryan Weathers
RHP	Max Meyer
RHP	Adam Mazur

BULLPEN

RHP	Pete Fairbanks (C)
RHP	Calvin Faucher
RHP	Anthony Bender
RHP	Tyler Phillips
LHP	Cade Gibson
RHP	Lake Bachar
RHP	Janson Junk
LHP	Josh Simpson

PHILIP G. PAVELY-IMAGN IMAGES AT PNC PARK.

SANDY ALCANTARA

OUTFIELD

Leading the charge is breakout star Kyle Stowers, who was named a first-time All-Star and a Gold Glove nominee in left field. Despite missing the final month-plus of the season with an oblique issue, Stowers still finished with 3.6 bWAR and a 149 OPS+. Jakob Marsee made quite the impression in the first 55 games of his career, with a slash line of .292/.363/.478. More importantly, he solidified the center field position, which has been a revolving door. The final outfield spot could go to powerful newcomer Owen Caissie, who came over in the Cabrera trade. He made his MLB debut in August, but he dealt with a lingering concussion. If Caissie doesn't win the Opening Day job, it will likely be a platoon depending on the opposing pitcher: left-handed bat Conine and right-handed bats Hernández, Norby, Sanoja and Morel.

CATCHING

Agustín Ramírez will be given an adequate amount of time to show he has improved behind the dish before the Marlins move on. As a rookie, Ramírez

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE MARLINS "You can't take this team for granted. They're a bunch of young kids out there smiling, happy to be there, but they get after it. They're aggressive, they don't strike out much, they'll take the extra base and their bullpen had some really nice reclamation projects — basically, they excel in all the ways that a low-payroll team usually does. Will they ever really be in position to sign a veteran power hitter or power pitcher? I don't know, but for now, their rebuild is coming along pretty well. Xavier Edwards and Otto Lopez are really solid up the middle, Jakob Marsee takes great at-bats, Javier Sonjoa plays everywhere and Kyle Stowers is a stud. Eury Pérez, Braxton Garrett and Max Meyer all have breakout potential as starters. They won't challenge for the division, but they're a tough team to put away."

led all big-league backstops in errors (10) and passed balls (19) and posted the second-worst DRS (-14). The left-handed-hitting Hicks would once again split time with Ramírez after tallying a 94 OPS+ as a Rule 5 Draft pick who had never played above the Double-A level. Also part of the equation is top catching prospect Joe Mack, who was added to the 40-man roster and is considered the catcher of the future. He won a minor league Gold Glove in 2024 and spent nearly an entire season with Triple-A Jacksonville during its championship run in 2025.

DH/BENCH

The Marlins would rather avoid relegating Ramírez to full-time DH, preferring to use the role in part to give regulars a breather. When Ramírez didn't start at catcher, however, he usually slotted in at DH to keep his bat in the lineup and performed better (.780 vs. .627 OPS). Sanoja is the Swiss Army knife around the field, including the mound in lopsided affairs. Since the Marlins don't shy away from platoons, the bench on a given day could depend on the starting pitcher's arm side.

MANAGEMENT

First-time big-league manager Clayton McCullough helped the majors' least experienced group overachieve, finishing fifth in NL Manager of the Year voting as a result. McCullough is a calming presence inside the dugout and a strong motivator for a core developing at the highest level. He also brings a dash of perspective: McCullough continues to remind everyone that improvement from year to year isn't guaranteed.

FINAL ANALYSIS

Bendix's vision appears to be coming to fruition sooner than expected, but several factors will come into play in 2026. For one, will the young Marlins regress? Will underachieving clubs like the Atlanta Braves and New York Mets bounce back? How will the pitching hold up? Miami appears to have discovered a winning formula to counteract a lack of superstar power, but is it sustainable?

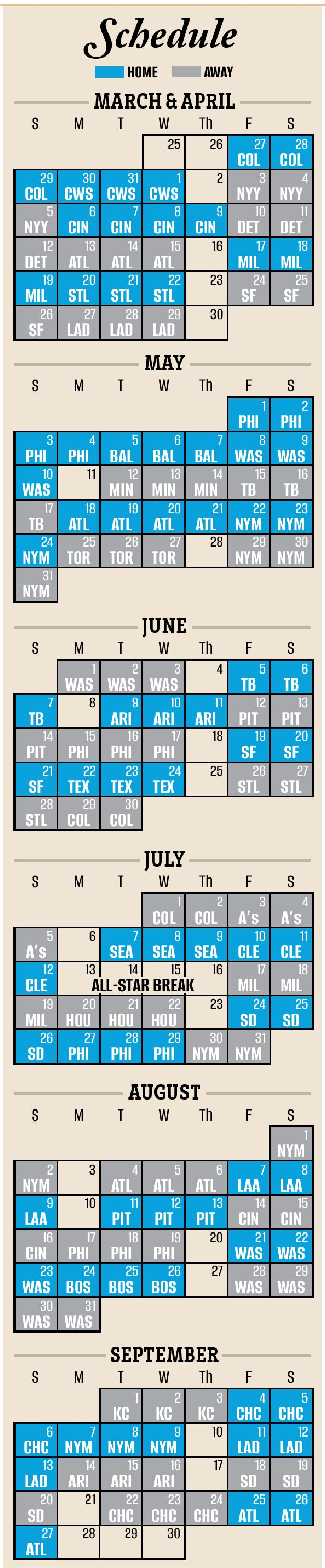
BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

INTERNAL PROMOTIONS The Marlins named Gabe Kapler the sixth general manager in franchise history, Frankie Piliere as vice president of amateur forecasting and player evaluation initiatives and Vinesh Kanthan as senior director of baseball operations. All three were hired in January 2024, when Kapler became an assistant general manager, Piliere the director of amateur scouting and Kanthan the director of baseball operations.

FRESH FACES Clayton McCullough's coaching staff will have five newcomers: Chris Hess and Corbin Day as assistant hitting coaches as part of a three-person staff with hitting coach Pedro Guerrero; Craig Driver as the first-base and catching coach; Blake Butler as the infield coach; and Rob Marcello as the assistant pitching coach. Departing for promotions elsewhere were assistant hitting coach Derek Shomon (White Sox hitting coach), assistant pitching coach Alon Leichman (Rockies pitching coach), catching coach/assistant catching director/bullpen catcher Joe Singley (Orioles field coordinator and catching coach) and infield/baserunning/first-base coach Tyler Smarslok (Nationals field coordinator).

TORPEDO MAN A year ago, "torpedo bats" had yet to take the baseball world by storm. The inventor is none other than Marlins field coordinator Aaron Leanhardt, who began concocting the idea while serving as an assistant minor league hitting coordinator in the Yankees' organization.

UPCOMING DRAFT After dropping five spots in the MLB Draft Lottery, the Marlins will select 14th overall in the draft this July. The only other time they picked in that spot was in 2011, when they chose José Fernández.



Schedule

🟦 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26	27 COL	28 COL
29 COL	30 CWS	31 CWS	1 CWS	2	3 NYY	4 NYY
5 NYY	6 CIN	7 CIN	8 CIN	9 CIN	10 DET	11 DET
12 DET	13 ATL	14 ATL	15 ATL	16	17 MIL	18 MIL
19 MIL	20 STL	21 STL	22 STL	23	24 SF	25 SF
26 SF	27 LAD	28 LAD	29 LAD	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 PHI	2 PHI
3 PHI	4 PHI	5 BAL	6 BAL	7 BAL	8 WAS	9 WAS
10 WAS	11	12 MIN	13 MIN	14 MIN	15 TB	16 TB
17 TB	18 ATL	19 ATL	20 ATL	21 ATL	22 NYM	23 NYM
24 NYM	25 TOR	26 TOR	27 TOR	28	29 NYM	30 NYM
31 NYM						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 WAS	2 WAS	3 WAS	4	5 TB	6 TB
7 TB	8	9 ARI	10 ARI	11 ARI	12 PIT	13 PIT
14 PIT	15 PHI	16 PHI	17 PHI	18	19 SF	20 SF
21 SF	22 TEX	23 TEX	24 TEX	25	26 STL	27 STL
28 STL	29 COL	30 COL				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 COL	2 COL	3 A's	4 A's
5 A's	6	7 SEA	8 SEA	9 SEA	10 CLE	11 CLE
12 CLE	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 MIL	18 MIL
19 MIL	20 HOU	21 HOU	22 HOU	23	24 SD	25 SD
26 SD	27 PHI	28 PHI	29 PHI	30 NYM	31 NYM	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 NYM
2 NYM	3	4 ATL	5 ATL	6 ATL	7 LAA	8 LAA
9 LAA	10	11 PIT	12 PIT	13 PIT	14 CIN	15 CIN
16 CIN	17 PHI	18 PHI	19 PHI	20	21 WAS	22 WAS
23 WAS	24 BOS	25 BOS	26 BOS	27	28 WAS	29 WAS
30 WAS	31 WAS					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 KC	2 KC	3 KC	4 CHC	5 CHC
6 CHC	7 NYM	8 NYM	9 NYM	10	11 LAD	12 LAD
13 LAD	14 ARI	15 ARI	16 ARI	17	18 SD	19 SD
20 SD	21	22 CHC	23 CHC	24 CHC	25 ATL	26 ATL
27 ATL	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

812 Innings pitched by Marlins starters in 2025, seventh-fewest in the majors.

◆

53 Outs on the bases by Marlins baserunners, tied for fifth-most in MLB last season.

◆

17 Outs above average for the Marlins as a team defense in 2025, tied for seventh in MLB.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

COREY PERRINE/FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

1. Thomas White, LHP (21) Towering southpaw had 145 Ks in 89.2 innings at three levels in 2025.

2. Owen Caissie, OF (23) Slugger arrives as centerpiece of Cabrera trade with shot at Opening Day roster.

3. Robby Snelling, LHP (22) Organization's reigning Minor League Pitcher of the Year.

4. Joe Mack, C (23) Miami's catcher in waiting could force the issue and make the club out of spring.

5. Aiva Arquette, SS (22) Seventh overall pick debuted at High-A and is considered an advanced bat.

6. Starlyn Caba, SS (20) Gold Glove talent missed time with injury but flashed in Arizona Fall League.

7. Cam Cannarella, OF (22) Debuted at High-A and has elite bat-to-ball and defensive skills.

8. Kemp Alderman, OF (23) Combined for an .819 OPS in Double-A and Triple-A.

9. Kevin Defrank, RHP (17) Thrived in Dominican Summer League (3.19 ERA).

10. Noble Meyer, RHP (21) Fell behind White in his development and remained at High-A (4.41 ERA).

Marlins Roster

President of Baseball Operations: Peter Bendix • **Manager:** Clayton McCullough • **Coaches:** Blake Butler (infield), Corbin Day (asst. hitting), Craig Driver (first base), Pedro Guerrero (hitting), Chris Hess (asst. hitting), Blake Lalli (third base), Aaron Leanhardt (field coordinator), Brandon Mann (bullpen), Rob Marcello (asst. pitching), Daniel Moskos (pitching), Bryson Nakamura (hitting strategist), Joe Singley (catching), Tyler Smarslok (first base/infield defense/baserunning), Carson Vitale (bench)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
22	Sandy Alcantara	R-R	6-5	200	9/7/95	**MIAMI**	11-12	5.36	31	31	0	174.2	165	57	142
84	Lake Bachar	R-R	6-2	219	6/3/95	**MIAMI**	8-2	3.93	53	1	3	71.0	55	30	75
						Jacksonville (AAA)	0-0	3.00	3	0	1	3.0	2	1	6
37	Anthony Bender	R-R	6-4	205	2/3/95	**MIAMI**	3-5	2.16	51	0	4	50.0	32	21	42
	Pete Fairbanks	R-R	6-6	235	12/16/93	**TAMPA BAY**	4-5	2.83	61	0	27	60.1	45	18	59
53	Calvin Faucher	R-R	6-1	190	9/22/95	**MIAMI**	4-4	3.28	65	0	15	60.1	53	24	59
90	Dax Fulton	L-L	6-7	245	10/16/01	Jacksonville (AAA)	0-1	5.51	4	4	0	16.1	23	10	19
						Pensacola (AA)	5-10	5.36	19	18	0	87.1	86	49	96
29	Braxton Garrett	R-L	6-2	202	8/5/97	Injured — Missed Season									
58	Cade Gibson	L-L	6-2	195	2/18/98	**MIAMI**	4-5	2.63	44	1	0	54.2	44	21	43
						Jacksonville (AAA)	1-1	2.70	9	0	1	20.0	15	7	25
65	Ryan Gusto	R-R	6-4	232	3/11/99	**MIAMI**	0-3	9.77	3	3	0	15.2	19	8	10
						Jacksonville (AAA)	0-1	10.38	2	2	0	4.1	10	2	2
						HOUSTON	7-4	4.92	24	14	0	86.0	95	28	87
32	Ronny Henriquez	R-R	5-10	155	6/20/00	**MIAMI**	7-1	2.22	69	0	7	73.0	53	27	98
26	Janson Junk	R-R	6-2	197	1/15/96	**MIAMI**	6-4	4.17	21	16	1	110.0	112	13	77
						Jacksonville (AAA)	5-3	2.68	10	9	0	50.1	41	7	48
	William Kempner	R-R	6-0	222	6/18/01	Jacksonville (AAA)	3-0	2.65	13	0	1	17.0	8	15	25
						Pensacola (AA)	3-1	1.13	16	0	0	24.0	11	15	31
						Beloit (A+)	1-2	3.04	19	0	6	26.2	19	10	39
60	Adam Mazur	R-R	6-2	180	4/20/01	**MIAMI**	0-4	4.80	6	6	0	30.0	33	12	19
						Jacksonville (AAA)	6-7	4.36	22	19	0	107.1	109	30	100
23	Max Meyer	L-R	6-0	196	3/12/99	**MIAMI**	3-5	4.73	12	12	0	64.2	72	20	68
43	Andrew Nardi	L-L	6-3	215	8/18/98	Injured — Missed Season									
39	Eury Pérez	R-R	6-8	220	4/15/03	**MIAMI**	7-6	4.25	20	20	0	95.1	68	32	105
						Jacksonville (AAA)	1-1	2.13	3	3	0	12.2	7	7	15
						Jupiter (A)	0-0	1.80	5	5	0	10.0	9	3	12
49	Michael Petersen	R-R	6-7	195	5/16/94	**MIAMI**	0-0	3.97	11	0	0	11.1	11	5	12
						Jacksonville (AAA)	0-1	6.00	12	1	1	12.0	11	5	19
						ATLANTA	0-0	4.05	4	0	0	6.2	7	2	5
						Gwinnett (AAA)	0-0	3.13	20	0	0	23.0	25	7	26
						Salt Lake (AAA)	0-0	13.50	1	0	0	1.1	4	0	2
30	Tyler Phillips	R-R	6-5	225	10/27/97	**MIAMI**	2-1	2.78	54	1	4	77.2	65	24	52
66	Josh Simpson	L-L	6-2	190	8/19/97	**MIAMI**	4-2	7.34	31	0	0	30.2	34	22	36
						Jacksonville (AAA)	3-1	3.41	29	2	3	34.1	19	16	29
35	Ryan Weathers	R-L	6-1	230	12/17/99	**MIAMI**	2-2	3.99	8	8	0	38.1	37	12	37
						Jacksonville (AAA)	1-1	2.40	4	4	0	15.0	13	7	16
						Jupiter (A)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	3.0	0	0	6
	Josh White	R-R	6-1	205	11/24/00	Jacksonville (AAA)	4-1	2.29	27	2	4	39.1	27	11	57
						Pensacola (AA)	6-0	1.27	18	0	0	28.1	12	12	50

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
34	Liam Hicks	L-R	5-9	185	6/2/99	**MIAMI**	.247	119	332	37	82	6	45	43	56	2
26	Joe Mack	L-R	6-0	210	12/27/02	Jacksonville (AAA)	.250	99	364	58	91	18	53	35	115	8
						Pensacola (AA)	.318	13	44	12	14	3	5	10	12	1
50	Agustín Ramírez	R-R	6-1	210	9/10/01	**MIAMI**	.231	136	537	72	124	21	67	36	113	16
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.254	19	71	13	18	3	12	7	19	5

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
24	Maximo Acosta	R-R	5-11	187	10/29/02	**MIAMI**	.204	19	54	7	11	3	5	6	17	1
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.224	115	410	56	92	13	50	50	123	33
65	Deyvison De Los Santos	R-R	6-1	185	6/21/03	Jacksonville (AAA)	.241	106	399	54	96	12	54	36	99	16
						Jupiter (A)	.333	2	6	2	2	0	0	2	1	0
						FCL Marlins (R)	.143	2	7	1	1	0	0	1	3	0
9	Xavier Edwards	S-R	5-8	175	8/9/99	**MIAMI**	.283	139	561	75	159	3	43	49	88	27
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.143	2	7	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
6	Otto Lopez	R-R	5-10	185	10/1/98	**MIAMI**	.246	143	544	66	134	15	77	44	82	15
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.250	1	4	2	1	0	1	0	1	0
	Christopher Morel	R-R	6-0	200	6/24/99	**TAMPA BAY**	.219	105	278	37	61	11	33	25	109	7
1	Connor Norby	R-R	5-10	180	6/8/00	**MIAMI**	.251	88	311	42	78	8	34	18	90	8
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.343	11	35	6	12	3	8	4	8	0
21	Graham Pauley	L-R	6-1	200	9/24/00	**MIAMI**	.224	62	161	18	36	4	11	21	36	2
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.263	37	137	19	36	8	21	14	18	5
46	Javier Sanoja	R-R	5-7	150	9/3/02	**MIAMI**	.243	120	313	40	76	6	38	19	41	6
68	Jared Serna	R-R	5-7	174	6/1/02	Jacksonville (AAA)	.235	10	34	7	8	0	2	7	6	5
						Pensacola (AA)	.223	101	386	51	86	3	28	42	69	15

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
19	Owen Caissie	L-R	6-3	190	7/8/02	**CHICAGO NL**	.192	12	26	4	5	1	4	1	11	0
						Iowa (AAA)	.286	99	370	74	106	22	55	57	121	5
18	Griffin Conine	L-R	6-1	210	7/11/97	**MIAMI**	.253	24	79	13	20	2	8	7	25	0
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.292	9	24	7	7	2	9	11	9	0
64	Heriberto Hernández	R-R	6-0	195	12/16/99	**MIAMI**	.266	87	256	40	68	10	45	31	77	1
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.220	41	141	21	31	9	21	19	57	6
87	Jakob Marsee	L-L	6-0	180	6/28/01	**MIAMI**	.292	55	209	28	61	5	33	22	48	14
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.246	98	345	56	85	14	37	68	81	47
10	Victor Mesa Jr.	L-L	5-11	195	9/8/01	**MIAMI**	.188	16	32	7	6	1	6	5	5	0
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.301	42	153	19	46	7	30	17	28	4
						Jupiter (A)	.222	10	36	1	8	0	3	2	4	0
	Esteury Ruiz	R-R	5-10	169	2/15/99	**LOS ANGELES (NL)**	.190	19	21	2	4	1	2	2	8	4
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	.303	104	403	94	122	16	60	63	87	62
28	Kyle Stowers	L-L	6-2	215	1/2/98	**MIAMI**	.288	117	399	61	115	25	73	48	125	5
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.000	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

New York METS

2026 PREDICTION
2ND
NL EAST
2025 FINISH: 2ND (83-79)

The Mets spent the offseason purging the roster of many of the longest-tenured players in the organization: Pete Alonso, Edwin Díaz, Jeff McNeil, Brandon Nimmo — it seemed as if Mr. Met was the only familiar face spared. David Stearns, the Mets' president of baseball operations, worked to remake a team that lost 14 of its final 21 games to miss the playoffs, a brutal disappointment after adding Juan Soto to a team that had just reached the NLCS. Expectations will always be high under owner Steve Cohen, and a team with Soto, Francisco Lindor, improved defense and promising young pitchers will face intense pressure to find its way back to October.

JUAN SOTO

JUNFU HAN

ROTATION

The Mets put the "rot" in rotation last season, ranking 27th in innings, ahead of only the Los Angeles Dodgers (who slow-played several elite arms to be ready for October) and the lowly Colorado Rockies and Chicago White Sox. A mid-June hamstring injury to Kodai Senga had ripple effects, and Senga was so bad when he returned that he earned a demotion to Triple-A. With Clay Holmes, David Peterson and Sean Manaea wearing down or slumping, the Mets turned to top prospects Nolan McLean, Brandon Sproat and Jonah Tong to try to save their season. They couldn't do it, but they showed enough in 17 combined starts to give the Mets legitimate reason to believe in them going forward.

BULLPEN

If you're a New York Yankees reliever and become a free agent, there's a really good chance you'll sign with the Mets. A year after poaching Clay Holmes, the Mets took two more relievers from the Bronx, signing closer Devin Williams (three years, $51 million) and setup man Luke Weaver (two years, $22 million). Williams was still hard to hit last season and maintained an elite strikeout rate, so the Mets are willing to dismiss his career-high 4.79 ERA as mostly bad luck. Weaver has an exceptional changeup, like Williams, but had a better stay with the Yankees, blossoming from journeyman starter to a dependable late-inning force with a 3.22 ERA in 129 games across two seasons — though he struggled mightily in the playoffs against Boston and Toronto, allowing five earned runs and collecting just one out. Beyond the ex-Yankees, the Mets will rely on middle men Huascar Brazobán and Reed Garrett from the right side and Brooks Raley and A.J. Minter (returning from lat surgery) from the left.

MIDDLE INFIELD

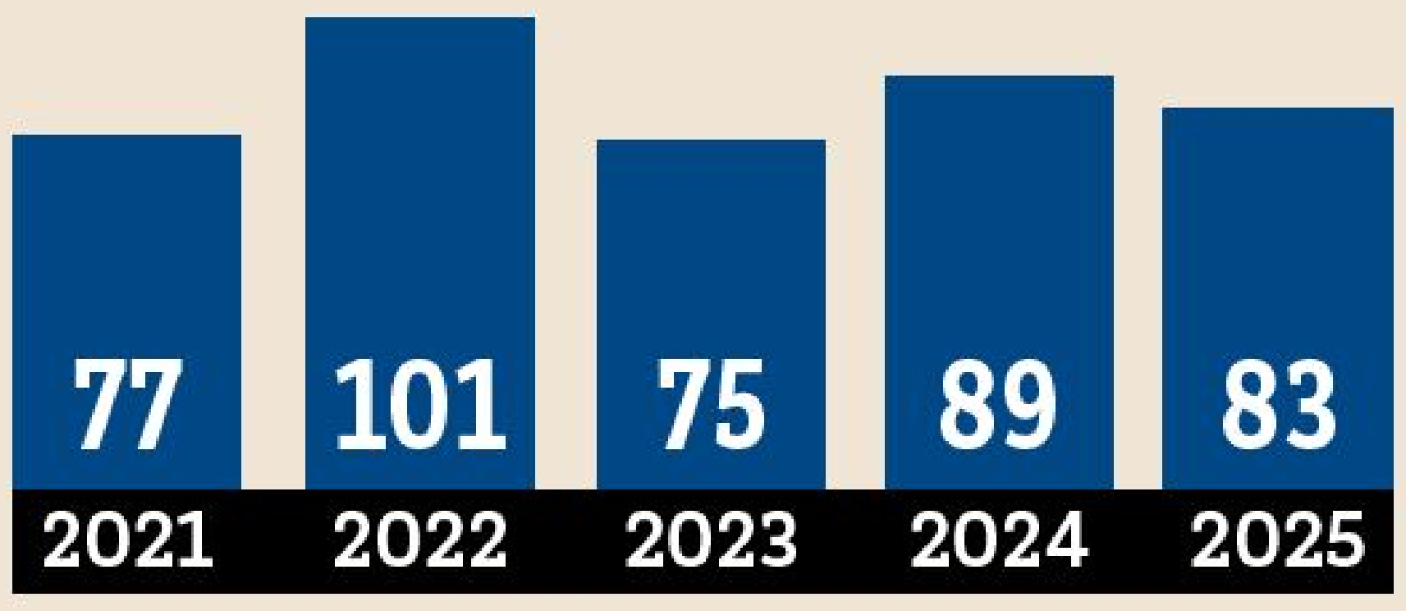
In just five seasons, Lindor has collected more wins above replacement (27.3, per Baseball Reference) than all but 10 players in Mets history. Last year was his second 30/30 campaign, and he's been remarkably durable, ranking second in MLB in plate appearances (to Atlanta's Matt Olson) with 2,814 over the past four seasons. A two-time Gold Glove winner for Cleveland, Lindor still ranks among the upper half of defensive shortstops in baseball. He'll be paired up the

Citi Field

Opened: 2009 • Capacity: 41,922
Left: 335′ Center: 408′ Right: 330′
Tickets: 718-507-TIXX
mlb.com/METS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



◆

Statline

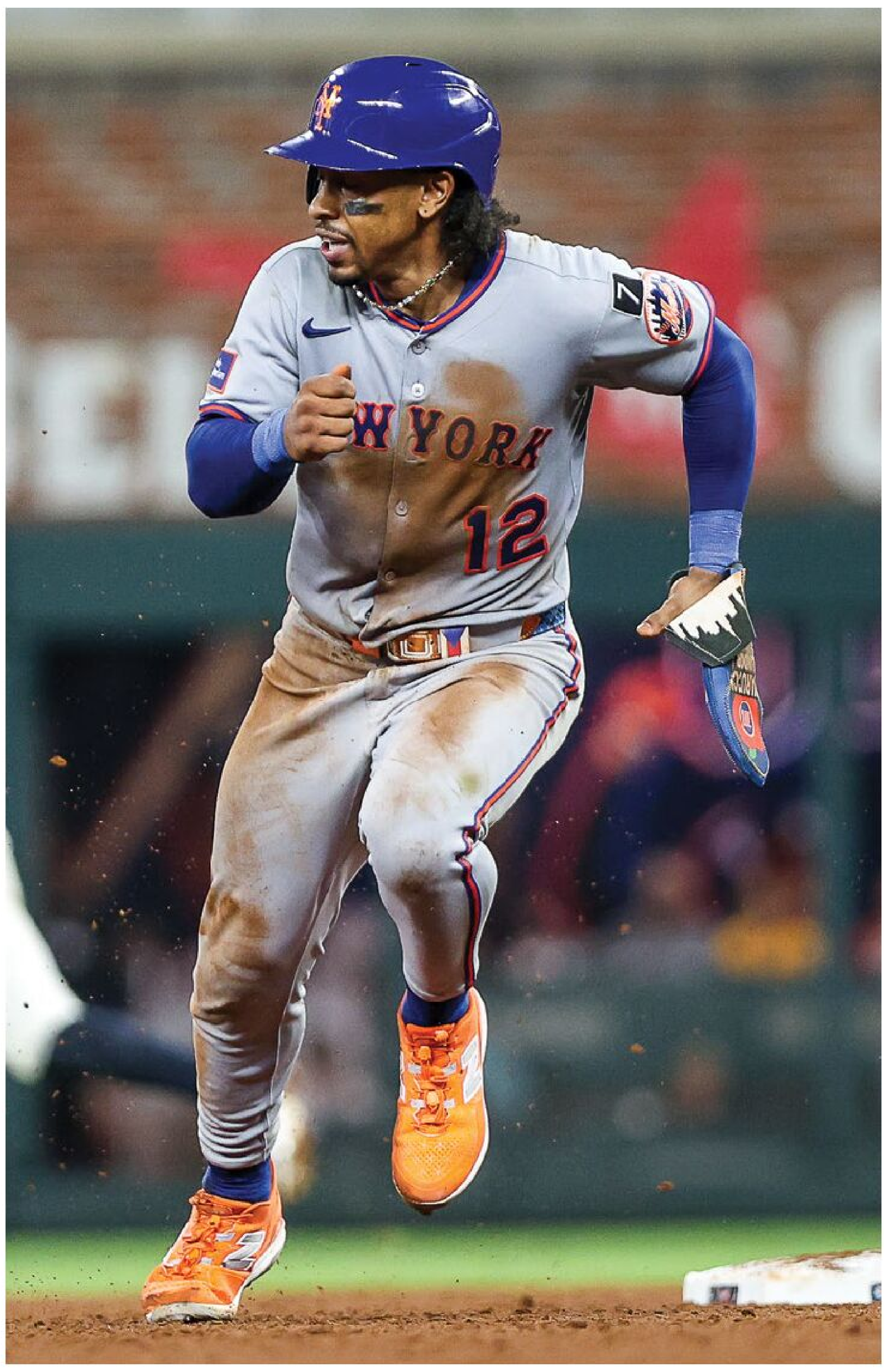
Highest single-season team stolen-base success rate, 2021-25

1. 2025 Mets	**89.1%**
2. 2023 Mets	**88.7%**
3. 2021 Guardians	86.5%
4. 2023 Diamondbacks	86.5%
5. 2024 Dodgers	85.5%

middle with Marcus Semien, who came over from Texas for Nimmo after two subpar seasons following the Rangers' title run in 2023. Semien slashed just .234/.307/.379 over the 2024-25 seasons, but he did win a Gold Glove at second base last year and will solidify the Mets defensively. He's also not far removed from being a very productive offensive player; from 2019 through 2024, only two players (Freddie Freeman and Mookie Betts) scored more runs than Semien's 590.

CORNERS

Jorge Polanco has played more than 1,000 games in the majors, with less than one inning at first base. But the Mets found a lot to like in the steady, sure-handed switch-hitter, who helped push Seattle to the ALCS and earned a two-year, $40 million contract in Queens. Polanco pencils in at first base, but his versatility makes him an option to start at every infield position, and third baseman Mark Vientos can also play across the diamond at first. The righty-hitting Vientos fell off sharply from his 2024 breakout, essentially splitting time at third with the lefty-hitting Brett Baty, who also turned 26 this offseason and should be entering his prime. Baty started 60 games at third base and 46 at second last season, underscoring a theme for a Stearns-run team, which gives the manager solid options at multiple positions for both lefty and righty hitters.



FRANCISCO LINDOR

OUTFIELD

Soto struggled defensively in right field, but he isn't ready to be a designated hitter, and the Mets sure don't want to mess with his offense. If playing in the field helps Soto stay comfortable at the plate, he'll play right field. He's an MVP in waiting, and his extraordinary penchant for walks became even more valuable last season when he added stolen bases to his repertoire, snagging 38 bags to tie for the National League lead. Soto will play this season at 27, traditionally the apex of a player's career, so expect a monster performance. Less certain, at press time, were the identities of the other outfield starters. Center fielder Tyrone Taylor is a superior defender but contributes very little with the bat, and top prospect Carson Benge, a lefty hitter who just turned 23, will have a chance to claim another starting outfield spot. Benge has played all three outfield spots (but mostly center) in the minors and has the hitting ability and athletic profile that could make him a breakout star.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

SS	Francisco Lindor (S)
RF	Juan Soto (L)
2B	Marcus Semien (R)
1B	Jorge Polanco (S)
3B	Brett Baty (L)
C	Francisco Alvarez (R)
LF	Carson Benge (L)
DH	Mark Vientos (R)
CF	Tyrone Taylor (R)

■ BENCH

C	Luis Torrens (R)
INF	Luisangel Acuña (R)
INF	Ronny Mauricio (S)
OF	Jared Young (L)

■ ROTATION

LHP	David Peterson
RHP	Nolan McLean
RHP	Clay Holmes
LHP	Sean Manaea
RHP	Brandon Sproat
RHP	Kodai Senga

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Devin Williams (C)
LHP	Richard Lovelady
LHP	A.J. Minter
LHP	Brooks Raley
RHP	Luke Weaver
RHP	Reed Garrett
RHP	Huascar Brazobán

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE METS "Nolan McLean was the best rookie pitcher I saw last year. I mean, that man can spin a baseball, it's incredible. And Jonah Tong has a great future, too. The rotation faded badly last year, but I still think it's a sneaky group that could come along quickly, especially if Kodai Senga is the guy he was early. I wasn't too thrilled with the Devin Williams signing, though — I just don't trust him under pressure, as we've seen in the postseason and when he got to the Yankees. Overall, it just doesn't seem like a winning atmosphere. They have good players, but they're not winning players, if that makes sense. In a way, I guess it's good that David Stearns changed things up so much, but I really don't know how they'll replace Pete Alonso's power. They do start with two future Hall of Famers in their prime — Juan Soto and Francisco Lindor — so that's a good place to be. They've got to hope Marcus Semien can reverse a two-year slide offensively, which is a lot to ask, but Jorge Polanco has a similar offensive profile to Brandon Nimmo, plus he's a switch-hitter with more positional versatility."

JORDAN GODFREE-IMAGN IMAGES

CATCHING

It was a tumultuous year for Francisco Alvarez, whom the Mets sent down to the minors in June after he struggled at the plate and behind it. He returned a month later and hit .323/.408/.645 in 21 games, then sprained the UCL in his right thumb and later broke his left pinkie on a rehab assignment. Alvarez played through the pain in September and underwent surgery for the thumb after the season. Through it all, he managed a respectable .787 OPS and, at 24, projects for a possible breakthrough season if he stays healthy.

DH/BENCH

Teams rarely like to be locked into the DH spot these days, and that's especially true for a Mets club with a newfound emphasis on versatility. Expect manager Carlos Mendoza to use the DH to give his regulars a partial rest, and/or to work in hitters who match up well against the opposing pitcher. The bench is a work in progress but should feature speed in Luisangel Acuña and a solid backup catcher in Luis Torrens.

MANAGEMENT

Stearns has clearly put his stamp on the roster, with subtler values like flexibility, defense and athleticism that helped him win consistently in Milwaukee. The big-name departures were jarring, but Cohen believes in Stearns' vision, from the roster to the coaches' room. The Mets will have eight new coaches for 2026, with Jeff Albert promoted from a development role to be the hitting director and Justin Willard, formerly with the Red Sox, now guiding the pitchers. Mendoza survived the overhaul, but his job status will be a persistent theme if the Mets start slowly.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Mets will look very different this season, and that's bound to be unsettling for a while. But after starting fast last year and falling apart, they could be better positioned to compete over the long haul. The big question is how quickly the young starters develop because there's not much rotation depth if they struggle.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

CANADA DRY SPELL More than 80 pitchers from Canada have debuted since the Mets franchise began in 1962. But after two Canadians started for the Mets in that inaugural season, no others did so until Jonah Tong arrived in the majors last August. Tong, a native of Markham, Ont., is already the Mets' all-time leader in starts by a pitcher from Canada, with five — one more than Ray Daviault and Ken MacKenzie's combined total from 1962.

SAD LOSS FOR SOTO The Mets set an MLB record with their $765 million commitment to Juan Soto before last season, but they lost one of Soto's mentors to a salary dispute when first base and baserunning coach Antoan Richardson departed for the Braves in November. Soto set a career high in stolen bases with 38, tied for the NL lead, and after joining the 30/30 club, he said of Richardson: "I give all of the credit to him." In November, Soto told reporters that he was "really sad" to see Richardson go, "but you've got to understand it's a business."

START ME UP The Mets' leader in games started last season was a guy who hadn't started since his rookie year of 2018 — Clay Holmes, who made 31 starts and went 12-8 with a 3.53 ERA while adding more than 100 innings to his workload from 2024. It was a successful transition from the bullpen for Holmes and good value for the Mets in the first year of his three-year, $38 million deal — but it's worth remembering the structure of his contract. Holmes, who turns 33 in March, is due $12 million for 2027 but can opt out of the deal after this season. If he has another solid performance, it stands to reason that he could make a lot more than one year and $12 million on the open market.

Schedule

🟧 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 🟧 PIT	27	28 🟧 PIT
29 🟧 PIT	30 ▨ STL	31 ▨ STL	1 ▨ STL	2 ▨ SF	3 ▨ SF	4 ▨ SF
5 ▨ SF	6	7 🟧 ARI	8 🟧 ARI	9 🟧 ARI	10 🟧 A's	11 🟧 A's
12 🟧 A's	13 ▨ LAD	14 ▨ LAD	15 ▨ LAD	16	17 ▨ CHC	18 ▨ CHC
19 ▨ CHC	20	21 🟧 MIN	22 🟧 MIN	23 🟧 MIN	24 🟧 COL	25 🟧 COL
26 🟧 COL	27	28 🟧 WAS	29 🟧 WAS	30 🟧 WAS		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ▨ LAA	2 ▨ LAA
3 ▨ LAA	4 ▨ COL	5 ▨ COL	6 ▨ COL	7	8 ▨ ARI	9 ▨ ARI
10 ▨ ARI	11	12 🟧 DET	13 🟧 DET	14 🟧 DET	15 🟧 NYY	16 🟧 NYY
17 🟧 NYY	18 ▨ WAS	19 ▨ WAS	20 ▨ WAS	21 ▨ WAS	22 ▨ MIA	23 ▨ MIA
24 ▨ MIA	25 🟧 CIN	26 🟧 CIN	27 🟧 CIN	28	29 🟧 MIA	30 🟧 MIA
31 🟧 MIA						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 ▨ SEA	2 ▨ SEA	3 ▨ SEA	4	5 ▨ SD	6 ▨ SD
7 ▨ SD	8	9 🟧 STL	10 🟧 STL	11 🟧 STL	12 🟧 ATL	13 🟧 ATL
14 🟧 ATL	15 ▨ CIN	16 ▨ CIN	17 ▨ CIN	18 ▨ PHI	19	20 ▨ PHI
21 ▨ PHI	22 🟧 CHC	23 🟧 CHC	24 🟧 CHC	25 🟧 CHC	26 🟧 PHI	27 🟧 PHI
28 🟧 PHI	29 ▨ TOR	30 ▨ TOR				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 ▨ TOR	2	3 ▨ ATL	4 ▨ ATL
5 ▨ ATL	6 ▨ ATL	7 🟧 KC	8 🟧 KC	9 🟧 KC	10 🟧 BOS	11 🟧 BOS
12 🟧 BOS	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16 ▨ PHI	17	18 ▨ PHI
19 ▨ PHI	20 ▨ MIL	21 ▨ MIL	22 ▨ MIL	23	24 🟧 LAD	25 🟧 LAD
26 🟧 LAD	27 🟧 ATL	28 🟧 ATL	29 🟧 ATL	30 🟧 MIA	31 🟧 MIA	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 🟧 MIA
2 🟧 MIA	3	4 ▨ CLE	5 ▨ CLE	6 ▨ CLE	7 ▨ PIT	8 ▨ PIT
9 ▨ PIT	10 ▨ ATL	11 ▨ ATL	12 ▨ ATL	13	14 🟧 WAS	15 🟧 WAS
16 🟧 WAS	17 🟧 SD	18 🟧 SD	19 🟧 SD	20	21 ▨ CWS	22 ▨ CWS
23 ▨ CWS	24	25 🟧 MIL	26 🟧 MIL	27 🟧 MIL	28 🟧 HOU	29 🟧 HOU
30 🟧 HOU	31 ▨ TB					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 ▨ TB	2 ▨ TB	3	4 🟧 SF	5 🟧 SF
6 🟧 SF	7 ▨ MIA	8 ▨ MIA	9 ▨ MIA	10	11 ▨ NYY	12 ▨ NYY
13 ▨ NYY	14 🟧 BAL	15 🟧 BAL	16 🟧 BAL	17 🟧 PHI	18 🟧 PHI	19 🟧 PHI
20 🟧 PHI	21	22 ▨ TEX	23 ▨ TEX	24 ▨ TEX	25 ▨ WAS	26 ▨ WAS
27 ▨ WAS	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

8 New coaches on the Mets' staff in 2026, with only three coaches returning from last season.

◆

796 Innings pitched by the Mets' rotation last season, ranking 27th in MLB.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

GREGORY FISHER-IMAGN IMAGES

- **1. Nolan McLean, RHP (24)** Curveball averaged a league-best 3,248 RPM after August call-up.

2. Carson Benge, OF (23) Five-tool force will have a real chance to win a starting outfield job this spring.

3. Jett Williams, SS/2B/CF (22) After strong recovery from 2024 wrist surgery, the versatile Williams will soon be a core piece for Mets.

4. Brandon Sproat, RHP (25) With a harder four-seamer making his changeup more effective, he's next in line for a rotation spot.

5. Jonah Tong, RHP (22) Remarkable extension helps him generate whiffs, but must control walks.

6. Jacob Reimer, 3B/1B (22) Made great strides as a power hitter at High-A and Double-A.

7. A.J. Ewing, CF/2B (21) Fleet lefty hitter who excelled at three levels last season.

8. Ryan Clifford, 1B/OF (22) He's been a big three-true-outcomes guy, but the homers and walks make him an intriguing option.

9. Mitch Voit, 2B (21) Former two-way player at Michigan who concentrated on hitting in '25 (1.140 OPS) and became the Mets' top pick.

10. Elian Peña, SS (18) Disciplined, all-fields hitter with speed who signed for $5 million last year.

Mets Roster

President, Baseball Operations: David Stearns • **Manager:** Carlos Mendoza • **Coaches:** Jeff Albert (director of hitting), J.P. Arencibia (catching), Danny Barnes (quality control), Kai Correa (bench), Rafael Fernandez (asst. hitting), Gilbert Gomez (first base and outfield), Tim Leiper (third base and infield), Daniel McKinney (asst. pitching), José Rosado (bullpen), Troy Snitker (hitting), Justin Willard (pitching)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
43	Huascar Brazobán	R-R	6-3	155	10/15/89	**NEW YORK NL**	**5-2**	**3.57**	**52**	**3**	**2**	**63.0**	**51**	**27**	**57**
						Syracuse (AAA)	1-0	5.93	10	0	0	13.2	16	3	15
84	Alex Carrillo	R-R	6-2	220	6/6/97	**NEW YORK NL**	**0-1**	**13.50**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**4.2**	**6**	**2**	**4**
						Syracuse (AAA)	3-0	4.03	20	0	2	22.1	14	18	34
						Binghamton (AA)	2-1	4.19	15	0	0	19.1	15	8	30
	Cooper Criswell	R-R	6-6	200	7/24/96	**BOSTON**	**1-0**	**3.57**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**17.2**	**23**	**5**	**9**
						Worcester (AAA)	4-2	3.70	16	14	0	65.2	60	28	68
75	Reed Garrett	R-R	6-2	195	1/2/93	**NEW YORK NL**	**3-6**	**3.90**	**58**	**1**	**3**	**55.1**	**47**	**26**	**64**
						Binghamton (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.0	1	0	2
	Joey Gerber	R-R	6-4	212	5/3/97	**TAMPA BAY**	**0-0**	**2.08**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**4.1**	**3**	**0**	**4**
						Durham (AAA)	0-2	6.23	34	9	2	43.1	48	15	54
						FCL Rays (R)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.0	1	0	1
51	Justin Hagenman	R-R	6-3	205	10/7/96	**NEW YORK NL**	**0-1**	**4.56**	**9**	**1**	**1**	**23.2**	**24**	**2**	**23**
						Syracuse (AAA)	2-4	5.58	21	13	0	69.1	76	13	73
35	Clay Holmes	R-R	6-5	245	3/27/93	**NEW YORK NL**	**12-8**	**3.53**	**33**	**31**	**0**	**165.2**	**150**	**66**	**129**
	Richard Lovelady	L-L	6-0	185	7/7/95	**NEW YORK NL**	**0-0**	**6.30**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**10.0**	**10**	**4**	**9**
						Syracuse (AAA)	0-0	2.08	16	1	2	17.1	12	6	18
						TORONTO	**0-1**	**21.60**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1.2**	**2**	**2**	**3**
						St. Paul (AAA)	0-1	1.31	19	0	6	20.2	15	7	22
59	Sean Manaea	R-L	6-5	245	2/1/92	**NEW YORK NL**	**2-4**	**5.64**	**15**	**12**	**0**	**60.2**	**62**	**12**	**75**
						Syracuse (AAA)	0-0	4.00	2	1	0	9.0	6	1	12
						Binghamton (AA)	0-0	6.00	1	1	0	3.0	6	1	3
						Brooklyn (A+)	0-1	9.45	3	3	0	6.2	11	3	8
26	Nolan McLean	R-R	6-2	214	7/24/01	**NEW YORK NL**	**5-1**	**2.06**	**8**	**8**	**0**	**48.0**	**34**	**16**	**57**
						Syracuse (AAA)	5-4	2.78	16	13	0	87.1	58	38	97
						Binghamton (AA)	3-1	1.37	5	5	0	26.1	20	12	30
38	Tylor Megill	R-R	6-7	230	7/28/95	**NEW YORK NL**	**5-5**	**3.95**	**14**	**14**	**0**	**68.1**	**60**	**33**	**89**
						Syracuse (AAA)	1-1	6.60	4	4	0	15.0	15	9	16
						Binghamton (AA)	0-0	0.00	2	2	0	5.0	4	1	13
33	A.J. Minter	L-L	6-0	215	9/2/93	**NEW YORK NL**	**0-0**	**1.64**	**13**	**0**	**0**	**11.0**	**6**	**5**	**14**
72	Dedniel Núñez	R-R	6-2	180	6/5/96	**NEW YORK NL**	**0-0**	**4.66**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**9.2**	**6**	**6**	**11**
						Syracuse (AAA)	1-1	3.79	19	2	0	19.0	22	11	21
23	David Peterson	L-L	6-6	240	9/3/95	**NEW YORK NL**	**9-6**	**4.22**	**30**	**30**	**0**	**168.2**	**166**	**65**	**150**
91	Jonathan Pintaro	R-R	6-2	235	11/7/97	**NEW YORK NL**	**0-0**	**27.00**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.2**	**2**	**2**	**1**
						Syracuse (AAA)	2-3	5.22	17	5	1	39.2	37	29	46
						Binghamton (AA)	0-2	3.40	11	11	0	42.1	32	15	57
25	Brooks Raley	L-L	6-3	200	6/29/88	**NEW YORK NL**	**3-1**	**2.45**	**30**	**0**	**0**	**25.2**	**14**	**6**	**25**
						Syracuse (AAA)	1-0	0.00	3	0	0	3.1	3	1	3
						Binghamton (AA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	0	2.2	1	0	4
						St. Lucie (A)	0-0	0.00	3	1	0	3.0	3	0	6
50	Dylan Ross	R-R	6-5	251	9/1/00	Syracuse (AAA)	0-0	1.69	28	0	3	32.0	11	22	39
						Binghamton (AA)	0-0	4.35	11	0	4	10.1	10	3	18
						Brooklyn (A+)	2-0	1.54	10	0	0	11.2	8	8	23
45	Christian Scott	R-R	6-4	215	6/15/99	Injured — Missed Season									
34	Kodai Senga	L-R	6-1	202	1/30/93	**NEW YORK NL**	**7-6**	**3.02**	**22**	**22**	**0**	**113.1**	**94**	**55**	**109**
40	Brandon Sproat	R-R	6-3	215	9/17/00	**NEW YORK NL**	**0-2**	**4.79**	**4**	**4**	**0**	**20.2**	**18**	**7**	**17**
						Syracuse (AAA)	8-6	4.24	26	25	0	121.0	97	53	113
21	Jonah Tong	R-R	6-1	180	6/19/03	**NEW YORK NL**	**2-3**	**7.71**	**5**	**5**	**0**	**18.2**	**24**	**9**	**22**
						Syracuse (AAA)	2-0	0.00	2	2	0	11.2	8	3	17
						Binghamton (AA)	8-5	1.59	20	20	0	102.0	50	44	162
44	Austin Warren	R-R	6-0	170	2/5/96	**NEW YORK NL**	**1-0**	**0.96**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**9.1**	**5**	**4**	**9**
						Syracuse (AAA)	8-4	4.97	34	4	1	50.2	53	19	58
30	Luke Weaver	R-R	6-2	180	8/21/93	**NEW YORK AL**	**4-4**	**3.62**	**64**	**0**	**8**	**64.2**	**46**	**20**	**72**
	Devin Williams	R-R	6-2	193	9/21/94	**NEW YORK AL**	**4-6**	**4.79**	**67**	**0**	**18**	**62.0**	**45**	**25**	**90**

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
4	Francisco Alvarez	R-R	5-10	233	11/19/01	**NEW YORK NL**	**.256**	**76**	**246**	**32**	**63**	**11**	**32**	**27**	**73**	**0**
						Syracuse (AAA)	.258	26	93	19	24	12	28	11	33	0
	Drew Romo	S-R	6-1	205	8/29/01	**COLORADO**	**.000**	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	.264	60	220	28	58	7	23	18	63	2
						ACL Rockies (R)	.188	5	16	2	3	0	1	1	1	1
30	Hayden Senger	R-R	6-1	210	4/3/97	**NEW YORK NL**	**.181**	**33**	**72**	**8**	**13**	**0**	**4**	**3**	**22**	**0**
						Syracuse (AAA)	.218	46	165	24	36	5	17	10	44	2
13	Luis Torrens	R-R	5-11	217	5/2/96	**NEW YORK NL**	**.226**	**93**	**261**	**20**	**59**	**5**	**29**	**19**	**56**	**1**
						Syracuse (AAA)	.000	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
2	Luisangel Acuña	R-R	5-8	181	3/12/02	**NEW YORK NL**	**.234**	**95**	**175**	**30**	**41**	**0**	**8**	**13**	**37**	**16**
						Syracuse (AAA)	.303	28	109	16	33	0	10	9	19	8
7	Brett Baty	L-R	6-3	210	11/13/99	**NEW YORK NL**	**.254**	**130**	**393**	**53**	**100**	**18**	**50**	**33**	**108**	**8**
						Syracuse (AAA)	.300	3	10	2	3	0	3	1	3	0
12	Francisco Lindor	S-R	5-10	190	11/14/93	**NEW YORK NL**	**.267**	**160**	**644**	**117**	**172**	**31**	**86**	**65**	**131**	**31**
0	Ronny Mauricio	S-R	6-4	166	4/4/01	**NEW YORK NL**	**.226**	**61**	**168**	**19**	**38**	**6**	**10**	**15**	**54**	**4**
						Syracuse (AAA)	.515	9	33	10	17	3	8	5	5	4
						Binghamton (AA)	.118	5	17	1	2	0	2	1	7	0
						St. Lucie (A)	.133	5	15	2	2	0	1	1	5	2
11	Jorge Polanco	S-R	6-0	208	7/5/93	**SEATTLE**	**.265**	**138**	**471**	**64**	**125**	**26**	**78**	**42**	**82**	**6**
10	Marcus Semien	R-R	6-0	195	9/17/90	**TEXAS**	**.230**	**127**	**470**	**62**	**108**	**15**	**62**	**50**	**93**	**11**
27	Mark Vientos	R-R	6-3	185	12/11/99	**NEW YORK NL**	**.233**	**121**	**424**	**44**	**99**	**17**	**61**	**30**	**115**	**1**
						Syracuse (AAA)	.174	6	23	4	4	0	3	3	3	0

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Ji Hwan Bae	L-R	5-11	185	7/26/99	**PITTSBURGH**	**.050**	**13**	**20**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**9**	**4**
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.292	67	264	55	77	1	21	34	61	23
						Bradenton (A)	.294	6	17	4	5	0	2	2	6	0
	Nick Morabito	R-R	5-10	185	5/7/03	Binghamton (AA)	.273	118	436	63	119	6	59	47	115	49
22	Juan Soto	L-L	6-1	224	10/25/98	**NEW YORK NL**	**.263**	**160**	**577**	**120**	**152**	**43**	**105**	**127**	**137**	**38**
15	Tyrone Taylor	R-R	6-1	218	1/22/94	**NEW YORK NL**	**.223**	**113**	**310**	**34**	**69**	**2**	**27**	**16**	**76**	**12**
29	Jared Young	L-R	6-2	200	7/9/95	**NEW YORK NL**	**.186**	**23**	**43**	**5**	**8**	**4**	**6**	**2**	**16**	**0**
						Syracuse (AAA)	.300	75	273	51	82	17	50	41	57	8
						St. Lucie (A)	.364	4	11	3	4	1	2	4	0	0

Philadelphia PHILLIES

2026 PREDICTION
1ST
NL EAST
2025 FINISH: 1ST (96-66)

The Phillies' win total has increased each of the past seven full seasons, but they're still looking for the victory that matters most — a World Series title. They've reached the postseason four straight years but haven't made it past the division series the past two. Frustration is nearing a peak in a town not known for sporting patience. So is the pressure on this team's aging core.

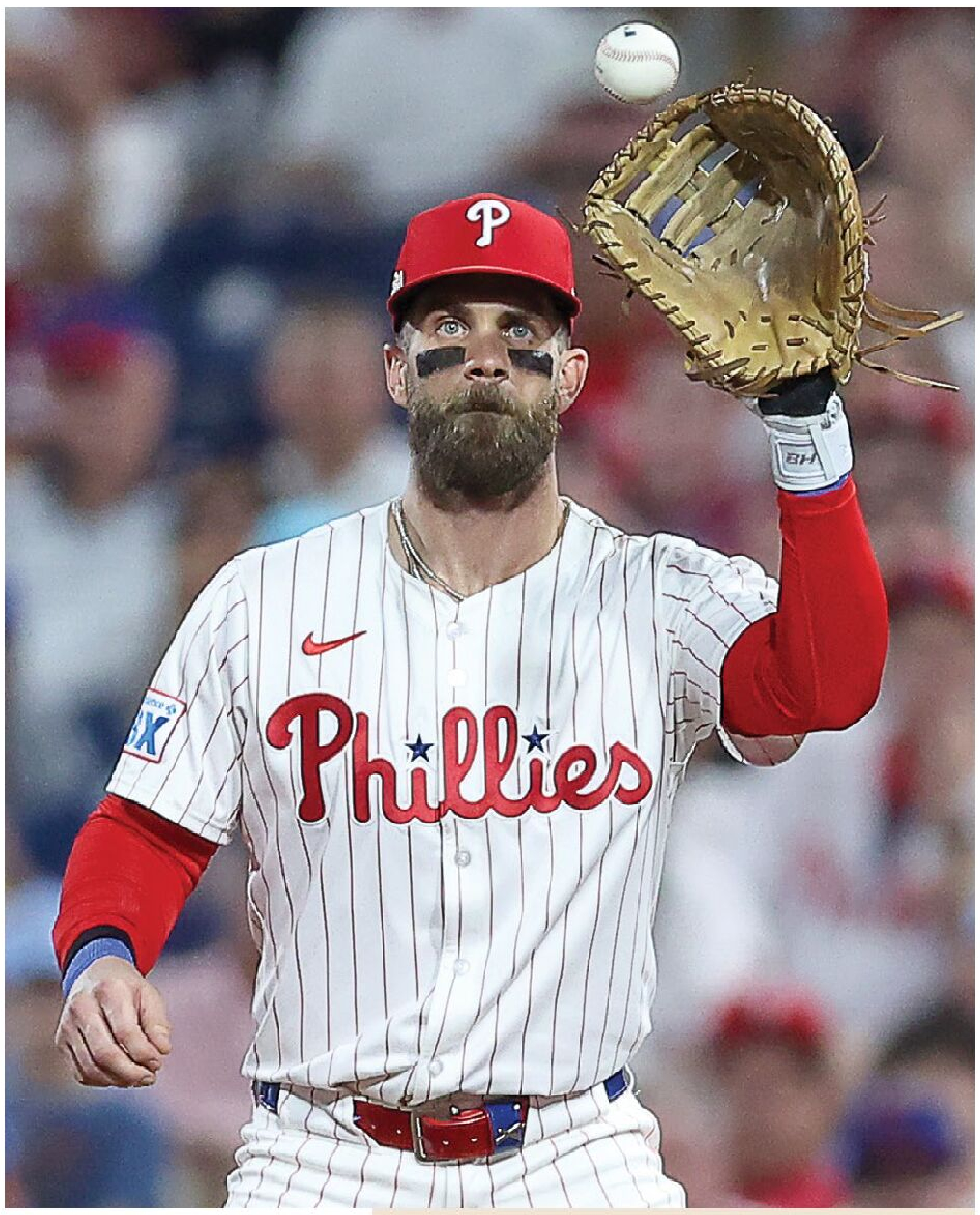
The talent is still there. Now, it's time for the victory that matters most. Anything less will push the frustration to a full boil as this core moves closer to its expiration date.

ROTATION

This unit led the majors in innings (929.2) and quality starts (84, a dozen more than any other team) and was second in ERA (3.53) in 2025. With NL Cy Young runner-up Cristopher Sánchez becoming one of the game's best and fellow lefty Jesús Luzardo blossoming into a top-half-of-the-rotation talent, it has the makings of being a strength again, even with stalwart Ranger Suárez moving on. There are question marks, however. Righthander Zack Wheeler was making his annual push up the Cy Young ballot when he was felled by thoracic outlet syndrome last August. He had surgery in September, and a full recovery is expected, but it's reasonable to wonder if he can still be the high-strikeout, quality-start machine he's been since arriving in 2020. He will turn 36 in May and ranks third in MLB with 979 innings pitched since the start of 2020. At $42 million, Wheeler will have the highest salary of any pitcher in the game in 2026. His intangibles, starting with toughness and determination, are real, so don't be surprised if he remains one of the game's best. Veteran workhorse Aaron Nola is another question mark. He spent three months on the injured list with ankle and rib issues last season, and his overall stuff has declined after shouldering 1,432.2 innings, the most in MLB, from 2017 to '24. There will be some new blood as power-armed righthander Andrew Painter, one of the game's top prospects and long an untouchable in trade talks, is set to arrive after just a so-so season at Triple-A that some chalked up to his continuing recovery from Tommy John surgery in 2023. If Wheeler needs more time early or Painter is not ready, Taijuan Walker will reprise a familiar role as rotation fill-in, albeit an expensive one at $18 million.

BULLPEN

The Phils solved a revolving door at closer by acquiring dominant Jhoan Duran at last summer's trade deadline. He struck out 27, walked one and was 16-of-19 in save chances in 20.2 innings with the Phils. Duran led all relievers with a 64.2% ground ball percentage and threw 271 pitches 100 mph or more, trailing only Hunter Greene (296) and Mason Miller (422). Returning lefty José Alvarado and free-agent righty Brad Keller are strong setup options, with lefty Tanner Banks and righty Orion Kerkering slotting more toward the middle. The Phillies traded lefty Matt Strahm, a valuable contributor for three seasons, to Kansas City for righthander Jonathan Bowlan. He's out of minor-league options



BRYCE HARPER

BILL STREICHER-IMAGN IMAGES

Citizens Bank Park

Opened: 2004 • Capacity: 42,901
Left: 329' Center: 401' Right: 330'
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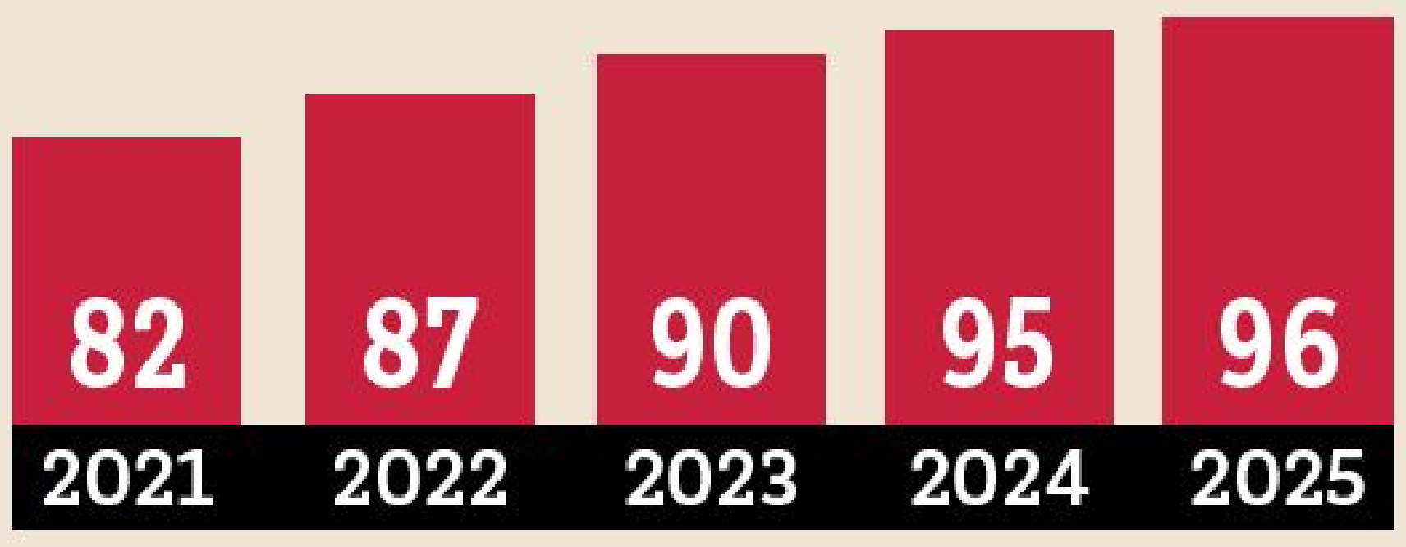
◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Lowest home run per fly ball rate among qualified NL pitchers, 2025

1. Paul Skenes, Pirates	6.3%
2. Andrew Abbott, Reds	8.3%
3. Matthew Boyd, Cubs	8.4%
4. Jesús Luzardo, Phillies	**9.0%**
5. Cristopher Sánchez, Phillies	**9.2%**

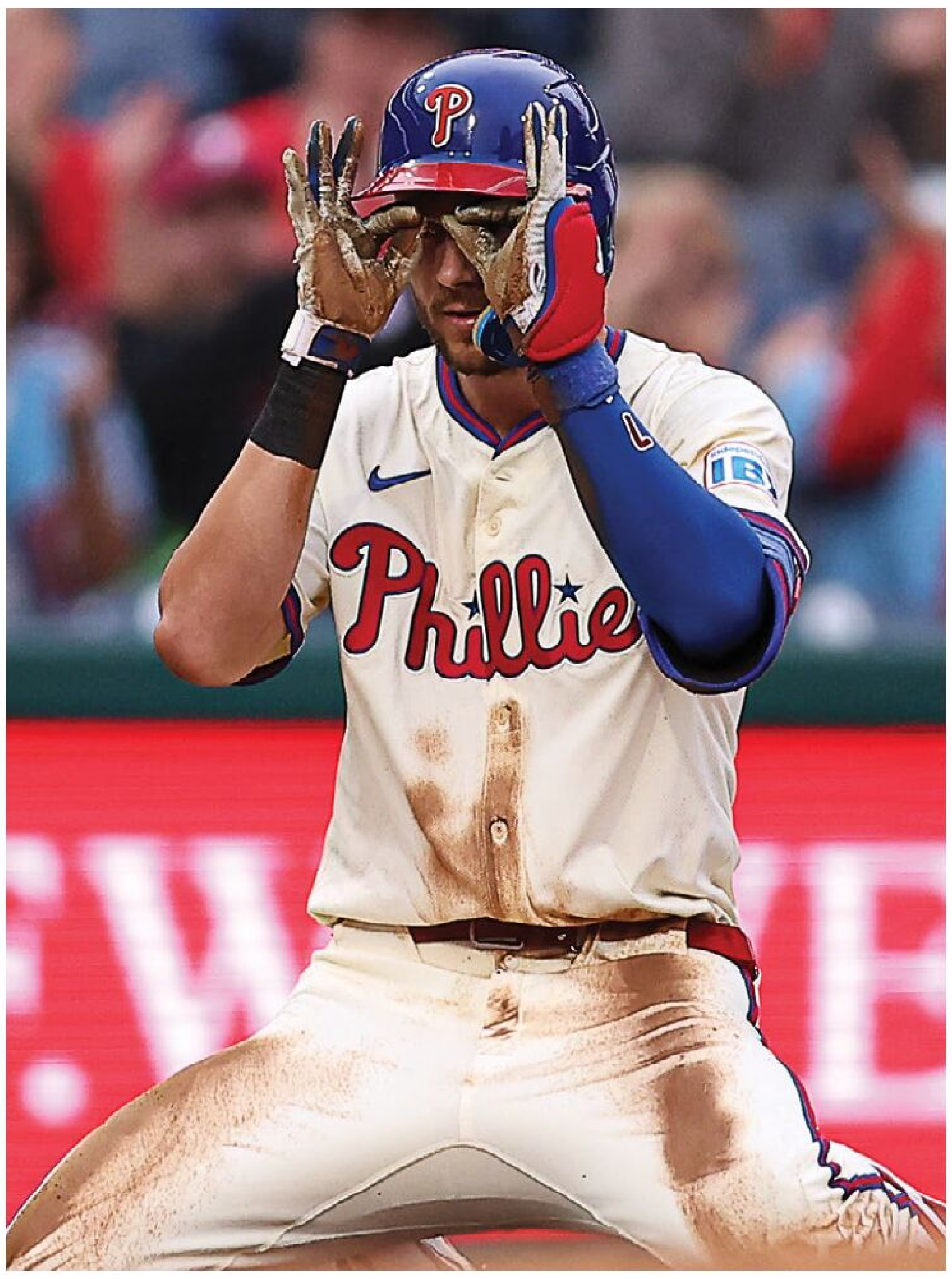
and figures to make the club, along with free-agent addition Zach Pop. Righthanders Yoniel Curet, Max Lazar, Seth Johnson and Rule 5 pick Zach McCambley are all in the mix, as is lefty sidearmer Tyler Backhus.

MIDDLE INFIELD

Shortstop Trea Turner answered a couple of challenges in 2025, improving offensively and defensively on his way to finishing fifth in NL MVP voting. He cut down his strikeouts, increased his walk rate and won the NL batting title at .304. Defensively, he reduced his error total from 17 to eight as his defensive runs saved went from minus-14 to two. Turner forms a solid tandem with second baseman Bryson Stott, an excellent defender who took some loop out of his swing and hit .294 with an .855 OPS after the All-Star break. Stott needs to keep producing to stave off a platoon with Edmundo Sosa.

CORNERS

Bryce Harper has become a quality first baseman and was a Gold Glove finalist for the second year in a row in 2025. A nagging wrist injury cut into Harper's production at the plate — his .844 OPS was his lowest since 2016 — and president of baseball ops Dave Dombrowski openly wondered if Harper was still an "elite" player or merely a "very good" one. Could this be fuel for the 33-year-old? Don't bet against it, especially if the Phils can get him some lineup protection. Only 42.9% of the pitches Harper saw last season were in the zone, fewest among hitters who saw at least 200 pitches. Third baseman Alec Bohm often hits behind Harper, but his production sagged in 2025. He'll be a free agent next winter, so a rebound would help him and the team.



TREA TURNER

OUTFIELD

Change is coming to what was a below-average unit across the board in 2025. Free-agent addition Adolis García, a 39-homer man in Texas in 2023, will play strong defense in right, but the Phils really need his right-handed bat to awaken after he posted a weak .675 OPS the past two seasons. Brandon Marsh and Otto Kemp will likely platoon in left. In center, Justin Crawford, son of Carl and the team's top pick in 2022, projects to be the club's youngest Opening Day position starter since Scott Rolen in 1997. Crawford, 22, doesn't have much pop, but hitting .300 and swiping 40 bags hasn't been a problem in the minors. All in all, it's an iffy unit that could evolve as the season progresses.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

SS	Trea Turner (R)
DH	Kyle Schwarber (L)
1B	Bryce Harper (L)
3B	Alec Bohm (R)
RF	Adolis García (R)
2B	Bryson Stott (L)
LF	Brandon Marsh (L)
C	Rafael Marchán (S)
CF	Justin Crawford (L)

■ BENCH

INF	Edmundo Sosa (R)
C	Garrett Stubbs (L)
OF	Otto Kemp (R)
OF	Weston Wilson (R)

■ ROTATION

LHP	Cristopher Sánchez
RHP	Zack Wheeler
LHP	Jesús Luzardo
RHP	Aaron Nola
RHP	Andrew Painter

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Jhoan Duran (C)
LHP	José Alvarado
RHP	Brad Keller
RHP	Orion Kerkering
LHP	Tanner Banks
RHP	Jonathan Bowlan
RHP	Taijuan Walker
RHP	Zach Pop

BILL STREICHER-IMAGN IMAGES

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE PHILLIES "My biggest concern is the same concern I've had for the last four years: the up-and-down offense. Some days they're great, some days they're pathetic. It's just they're way too consistently inconsistent. They need to shake things up around their cornerstone guys, and Adolis García has a chance to do that. He never gets on base, but he'll be a big plus because he hits home runs, he's excellent in right field, he runs well, he's got something to prove and he plays with the fire and a passion that I think this team really needs. Justin Crawford will add a new element in the outfield, too; he won't hit for any power, but he'll get on base and be a big threat to steal. Bryson Stott should win a Gold Glove; he has incredible instincts at second base. Christopher Sánchez has the best changeup in the league because his arm speed is so good and he can fade it away to righties. He's also gotten really good at cutting it against lefties. They need Zack Wheeler to bounce back after his surgery; that's obviously a huge concern because I think he's a top-five pitcher in all of baseball. But the bullpen should be better with Jhoan Duran for the full season, and I love the Brad Keller signing. They'll make a great late-game tandem."

CATCHING

The Phillies went into the New Year hoping to re-sign veteran J.T. Realmuto. His offense has slipped, but he remains a stud defensively, and the pitching staff loves throwing to him. If Realmuto does not re-up, the Phils could bring in someone from the outside to join holdovers Rafael Marchán and Garrett Stubbs.

DH/BENCH

DH Kyle Schwarber led the NL in homers (56) and RBIs (132) while finishing second in NL MVP voting in 2025. With elite bat speed and an even higher OPS against lefties (.964 to .904 in 2025), the left-handed masher should remain a force for the life of his new five-year contract. Sosa is the team's best reserve, providing offense, energy and sound defense anywhere in the infield.

MANAGEMENT

Manager Rob Thomson has made the postseason all four years on the job, but the heat is on to take the next step. Management confirmed that by pursuing an experienced bench coach. Keep an eye on Don Mattingly, who had a great playing career before managing the Dodgers and Marlins and coaching with the Blue Jays. Mattingly's son, Preston, works under Dombrowski as general manager.

FINAL ANALYSIS

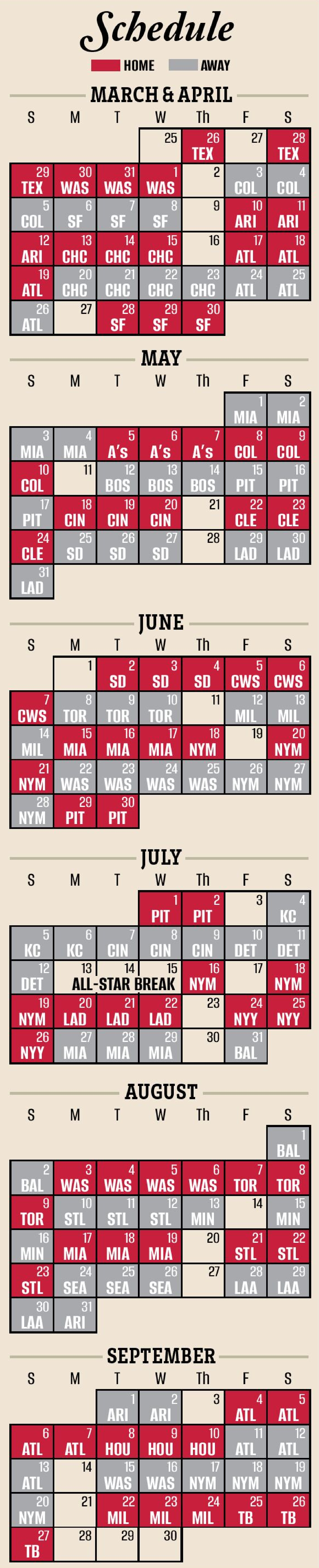
With star power and strong track records in the lineup and rotation, this team should push for a third straight NL East title. But that won't be enough for a fanbase that has grown cranky after recent postseason meltdowns. Nor will it be enough for owner John Middleton, who continues to write big checks and thirsts for a World Series title. Good health is a must, and that's always a challenge with an older club. Come October, the team must simply perform better — from the offense, which hit just .212 in the division series last year, to the defense, which made costly mistakes, to the bullpen, which has racked up a 6.82 ERA and five blown saves the past two postseasons.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

HE EARNED IT DH Kyle Schwarber completed a four-year, $79 million contract in 2025. It was one of the best signings in franchise history. Before Schwarber, the Phils had missed the postseason 10 straight seasons. With him, they've made it four straight years. Over that span, Schwarber averaged 47 homers and 109 RBIs. So, when Schwarber became a free agent after last season, the Phils weren't about to let him get away, signing him to a five-year, $150 million contract. The $30 million average annual value is the largest ever for a full-time DH. Sitting at 340 career homers, Schwarber will chase 500 — and potentially the Hall of Fame — these next five years.

HITTING IS HARD The NL had one qualified .300 hitter in 2025 — batting champ Trea Turner at .304. In 2015, there were 11. In 2005, there were 15. Why has it become so hard to hit .300? Turner offered his opinion. "Everyone throws 100," he said. "Everyone has six pitches. Nobody knows where the ball is going. There's a lot of reasons. Defenses are way better than they've ever been. If you're a defender now and you don't make plays, you get exposed. So, to me, it makes a lot of sense. You can have an average pitcher throwing 95 and have six pitches, and you've got to go up there and be ready for all of them. So, I know why. But I don't know why nobody else does."

TIPPING POINT Lefty starter Jesús Luzardo, acquired from Miami in December 2024, proved to be an outstanding pickup. He had a 3.92 ERA over a career-high 183.2 innings in 2025. Luzardo survived two horrendous starts in which he was discovered to be tipping pitches. He gave up 20 earned runs in 5.2 innings in those back-to-back starts. Remove those outings and he pitched to a 3.03 ERA in 30 starts. Luzardo should be attractive on next winter's free-agent market.



Schedule

🟥 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 TEX	27	28 TEX
29 TEX	30 WAS	31 WAS	1 WAS	2	3 COL	4 COL
5 COL	6 SF	7 SF	8 SF	9	10 ARI	11 ARI
12 ARI	13 CHC	14 CHC	15 CHC	16	17 ATL	18 ATL
19 ATL	20 CHC	21 CHC	22 CHC	23 CHC	24 ATL	25 ATL
26 ATL	27	28 SF	29 SF	30 SF		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 MIA	2 MIA
3 MIA	4 MIA	5 A's	6 A's	7 A's	8 COL	9 COL
10 COL	11	12 BOS	13 BOS	14 BOS	15 PIT	16 PIT
17 PIT	18 CIN	19 CIN	20 CIN	21	22 CLE	23 CLE
24 CLE	25 SD	26 SD	27 SD	28	29 LAD	30 LAD
31 LAD						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2 SD	3 SD	4 SD	5 CWS	6 CWS
7 CWS	8 TOR	9 TOR	10 TOR	11	12 MIL	13 MIL
14 MIL	15 MIA	16 MIA	17 MIA	18 NYM	19	20 NYM
21 NYM	22 WAS	23 WAS	24 WAS	25 WAS	26 NYM	27 NYM
28 NYM	29 PIT	30 PIT				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 PIT	2 PIT	3	4 KC
5 KC	6 KC	7 CIN	8 CIN	9 CIN	10 DET	11 DET
12 DET	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16 NYM	17	18 NYM
19 NYM	20 LAD	21 LAD	22 LAD	23	24 NYY	25 NYY
26 NYY	27 MIA	28 MIA	29 MIA	30	31 BAL	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 BAL
2 BAL	3 WAS	4 WAS	5 WAS	6 WAS	7 TOR	8 TOR
9 TOR	10 STL	11 STL	12 STL	13 MIN	14	15 MIN
16 MIN	17 MIA	18 MIA	19 MIA	20	21 STL	22 STL
23 STL	24 SEA	25 SEA	26 SEA	27	28 LAA	29 LAA
30 LAA	31 ARI					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 ARI	2 ARI	3	4 ATL	5 ATL
6 ATL	7 ATL	8 HOU	9 HOU	10 HOU	11 ATL	12 ATL
13 ATL	14	15 WAS	16 WAS	17 NYM	18 NYM	19 NYM
20 NYM	21	22 MIL	23 MIL	24 MIL	25 TB	26 TB
27 TB	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

96 The Phillies' win total, second-most in the majors in 2025.

◆

1958 The last time Phillies had a batting champion (Hall of Famer Richie Ashburn) before Trea Turner in 2025.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

NATHAN RAY SEEBECK-IMAGN IMAGES

1. Andrew Painter, RHP (22) Much-hyped prospect, a Justin Verlander type, finally arrives in '26.

2. Aidan Miller, SS (21) Total package set for Triple-A; could be in '27 infield.

3. Justin Crawford, CF (22) Speedy .300 hitter is ready for big-league debut.

4. Aroon Escobar, 2B (21) Strong-bodied cousin of Ronald Acuña Jr. is known for his bat.

5. Gage Wood, RHP (22) Team's top pick in '25 has big strikeout stuff; could rise quickly if used as reliever.

6. Matthew Fisher, RHP (20) Team spent $1.25 million to sign two-sport Indiana prep star last summer.

7. Dante Nori, CF (21) Stole 52 bases and had a .361 OBP in the minors in '25.

8. Gabriel Rincones Jr., RF (25) Lefty hitter has power, mashes right-handed pitching; could be part of platoon in '26.

9. Moisés Chace, RHP (22) Showed strikeout stuff before Tommy John surgery in '25.

10. Alex McFarlane, RHP (24) Plus slider could put him in the bullpen mix after wintertime addition to 40-man roster.

Phillies Roster

President, Baseball Operations: David Dombrowski • **Manager:** Rob Thomson • **Coaches:** Mike Calitri (field coordinator), Caleb Cotham (pitching), Bobby Dickerson (infield), Paco Figueroa (first base), Brad Flanders (asst. catching), Edwar Gonzalez (asst. hitting), Kevin Long (hitting), Mark Lowy (asst. pitching), Don Mattingly (bench), Rafael Pena (asst. hitting), Hector Rabago (asst. catching), Cesár Ramos (bullpen), Dusty Wathan (third base)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
46	José Alvarado	L-L	6-2	245	5/21/95	**PHILADELPHIA**	4-2	3.81	28	0	7	26.0	27	7	32
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	0-0	0.00	5	0	0	5.0	4	4	4
	Kyle Backhus	L-L	6-4	185	1/31/98	**ARIZONA**	0-3	4.62	32	0	2	25.1	28	8	22
						Reno (AAA)	4-4	2.05	26	0	0	26.1	28	10	37
58	Tanner Banks	R-L	6-1	205	10/24/91	**PHILADELPHIA**	6-2	3.07	69	1	1	67.1	56	12	61
52	Jonathan Bowlan	R-R	6-6	240	12/1/96	**KANSAS CITY**	1-2	3.86	34	1	0	44.1	37	17	46
						Omaha (AAA)	3-0	2.25	24	0	5	36.0	23	11	45
79	Jean Cabrera	R-R	6-0	145	10/20/01	Reading (AA)	6-9	3.81	26	26	0	137.0	107	61	127
75	Moisés Chace	R-R	6-1	213	6/9/03	Reading (AA)	0-0	3.24	6	6	0	16.2	15	12	19
	Yoniel Curet	R-R	6-2	250	11/3/02	Durham (AAA)	1-3	6.03	8	7	0	31.1	34	26	35
						Montgomery (AA)	1-0	1.45	5	5	0	18.2	12	5	19
						FCL Rays (R)	1-0	0.00	3	2	0	5.1	2	0	8
59	Jhoan Duran	R-R	6-5	230	1/8/98	**PHILADELPHIA**	1-2	2.18	23	0	16	20.2	18	1	27
						MINNESOTA	6-4	2.01	49	0	16	49.1	40	18	53
47	Nolan Hoffman	R-R	6-4	190	8/9/97	**PHILADELPHIA**	0-0	27.00	1	0	0	1.0	3	1	2
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	5-0	3.60	27	0	5	30.0	29	15	35
						Round Rock (AAA)	2-0	5.91	22	3	0	35.0	30	21	46
51	Seth Johnson	R-R	6-1	205	9/19/98	**PHILADELPHIA**	1-1	4.26	10	0	0	12.2	11	4	17
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	5-5	4.75	39	4	1	60.2	58	35	67
40	Brad Keller	R-R	6-5	255	7/27/95	**CHICAGO NL**	4-2	2.07	68	1	3	69.2	45	22	75
50	Orion Kerkering	R-R	6-2	204	4/4/01	**PHILADELPHIA**	8-4	3.30	69	0	4	60.0	55	27	65
60	Max Lazar	R-R	6-1	200	6/3/99	**PHILADELPHIA**	1-1	4.79	36	0	1	41.1	41	12	26
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	3-2	3.38	18	0	5	21.1	15	7	23
44	Jesús Luzardo	L-L	6-0	218	9/30/97	**PHILADELPHIA**	15-7	3.92	32	32	0	183.2	167	57	216
	Zach McCambley	L-R	6-2	225	5/4/99	Jacksonville (AAA)	1-3	3.32	36	0	1	40.2	33	15	52
						Pensacola (AA)	1-0	2.11	11	0	0	21.1	13	7	31
	Alex McFarlane	R-R	6-3	215	6/9/01	Reading (AA)	2-0	6.35	4	0	0	5.2	7	3	8
						Jersey Shore (A+)	2-9	4.72	24	18	0	74.1	60	40	74
27	Aaron Nola	R-R	6-2	200	6/4/93	**PHILADELPHIA**	5-10	6.01	17	17	0	94.1	99	28	97
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	0-1	2.19	3	3	0	12.1	11	3	17
23	Andrew Painter	R-R	6-7	215	4/10/03	Lehigh Valley (AAA)	5-6	5.40	22	22	0	106.2	119	46	111
						Clearwater (A)	0-2	3.97	4	4	0	11.1	10	1	12
	Zach Pop	R-R	6-4	220	9/20/96	**SEATTLE**	0-0	13.50	4	0	0	5.1	10	2	3
						NEW YORK (NL)	0-1	20.25	1	0	0	1.1	5	0	0
56	Alan Rangel	R-R	6-2	170	8/21/97	**PHILADELPHIA**	0-0	2.45	5	0	1	11.0	10	6	8
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	5-5	4.55	25	25	0	124.2	122	40	131
61	Cristopher Sánchez	L-L	6-6	200	12/12/96	**PHILADELPHIA**	13-5	2.50	32	32	0	202.0	171	44	212
99	Taijuan Walker	R-R	6-4	235	8/13/92	**PHILADELPHIA**	5-8	4.08	34	21	1	123.2	132	42	86
45	Zack Wheeler	L-R	6-4	195	5/30/90	**PHILADELPHIA**	10-5	2.71	24	24	0	149.2	107	33	195

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
13	Rafael Marchán	S-R	5-9	170	2/25/99	**PHILADELPHIA**	.210	42	105	9	22	2	13	10	17	0
21	Garrett Stubbs	L-R	5-10	170	5/26/93	**PHILADELPHIA**	.000	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	.265	71	264	45	70	8	50	31	62	5

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
28	Alec Bohm	R-R	6-5	218	8/3/96	**PHILADELPHIA**	.287	120	464	53	133	11	59	29	82	2
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	.143	5	21	2	3	1	2	1	2	0
3	Bryce Harper	L-R	6-2	210	10/16/92	**PHILADELPHIA**	.261	132	501	72	131	27	75	70	121	12
4	Otto Kemp	R-R	5-11	185	9/9/99	**PHILADELPHIA**	.234	62	197	26	46	8	28	12	67	2
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	.310	74	284	64	88	16	67	36	84	13
33	Edmundo Sosa	R-R	6-0	210	3/6/96	**PHILADELPHIA**	.276	89	243	30	67	11	39	10	56	1
5	Bryson Stott	L-R	6-1	200	10/6/97	**PHILADELPHIA**	.257	147	499	66	128	13	66	54	91	24
7	Trea Turner	R-R	6-1	185	6/30/93	**PHILADELPHIA**	.304	141	589	94	179	15	69	43	107	36

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
8	Nick Castellanos	R-R	6-3	203	3/4/92	**PHILADELPHIA**	.250	147	547	72	137	17	72	32	133	4
	Justin Crawford	L-R	6-2	188	1/13/04	Lehigh Valley (AAA)	.334	112	440	88	147	7	47	58	91	46
53	Adolis García	R-R	6-0	205	3/2/93	**TEXAS**	.227	135	507	58	115	19	75	28	135	13
98	Pedro León	R-R	5-9	170	5/28/98	Sugar Land (AAA)	.241	22	83	12	20	3	10	8	21	5
						FCL Astros (R)	.333	3	12	3	4	3	5	0	5	0
16	Brandon Marsh	L-R	6-2	215	12/18/97	**PHILADELPHIA**	.280	133	379	59	106	11	43	38	110	7
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	.300	6	20	3	6	1	6	4	8	2
	Gabriel Rincones Jr.	L-R	6-3	225	3/3/01	Lehigh Valley (AAA)	.240	119	412	81	99	18	73	80	114	21
23	Johan Rojas	R-R	5-11	165	8/14/00	**PHILADELPHIA**	.224	71	152	23	34	1	18	13	40	12
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	.279	35	147	18	41	1	13	13	32	8
12	Kyle Schwarber	L-R	5-11	229	3/5/93	**PHILADELPHIA**	.240	162	604	111	145	56	132	108	197	10
37	Weston Wilson	R-R	6-3	215	9/11/94	**PHILADELPHIA**	.198	54	111	15	22	5	17	12	34	2
						Lehigh Valley (AAA)	.250	25	104	21	26	3	12	18	26	4
						Clearwater (A)	.100	4	10	4	1	0	0	4	3	1

Washington NATIONALS

2026 PREDICTION
5TH
NL EAST
2025 FINISH: 5TH (66-96)

With the glow of the 2019 World Series title all but dimmed and the Nationals mired in what feels like an eternal rebuild, the Lerner family finally pulled the plug on the seven-and-a-half-year Mike Rizzo-Davey Martinez partnership and went in a vastly different direction. Instead of the old-school approach of 60-somethings Rizzo and Martinez, the Nationals turned the franchise over to 36-year-old president of baseball operations Paul Toboni and 33-year-old manager Blake Butera, who vowed to modernize an operation that was near the bottom of the league in terms of its analytics bent.

Although the new regime did little to overhaul a roster that finished 30 games out of first place in 2025, leaving little hope of a quick turnaround in 2026, the radical change in organizational direction still felt like a sea change — one designed to construct a future sustained winner atop foundational pieces such as left fielder James Wood and lefthander MacKenzie Gore.

JAMES WOOD

DARREN YAMASHITA-IMAGN IMAGES

ROTATION

Gore, a first-time All-Star in 2025, was the subject of near-constant trade rumors throughout the offseason, but as of early January, he was still in the fold, with two more years of team control. The Nationals can only hope that the 2026 version of Gore can sustain a full season of brilliance, rather than regressing down the stretch the way he did after his stunning first half in 2025. Behind Gore will be many familiar faces from 2025, including righthanders Cade Cavalli, Brad Lord and Jake Irvin and lefty Mitchell Parker. Cavalli still has enormous upside after recovering from elbow surgery, while Lord was one of the team's most promising developments of 2025. Righthander Josiah Gray, who missed most of 2024 and all of '25 following elbow surgery, may also contribute in 2026, and the Nationals are also intrigued by crafty lefty Foster Griffin, a former Royal and Blue Jay whom they signed to a one-year $5.5 million after he appeared to revive his career with three solid seasons in Japan.

BULLPEN

The Nats' penchant for trading bullpen arms for prospects has this unit looking perilously thin at the back end, with righthander Clayton Beeter, a strikeout artist with a nasty fastball-slider combination, as the most likely in-house candidate to close games. He will, however, need to curb his alarming walk rate of 6.4 per nine innings in 2025. Fellow righty Cole Henry, who had a breakthrough season in 2025 before fading down the stretch, is another option for high-leverage duty, and lefties PJ Poulin and Konnor Pilkington did enough last season to warrant roster spots in 2026. One intriguing wrinkle here could be Lord — although the Nats may need him in the rotation, he actually was significantly better in relief than as a starter in 2025.

MIDDLE INFIELD

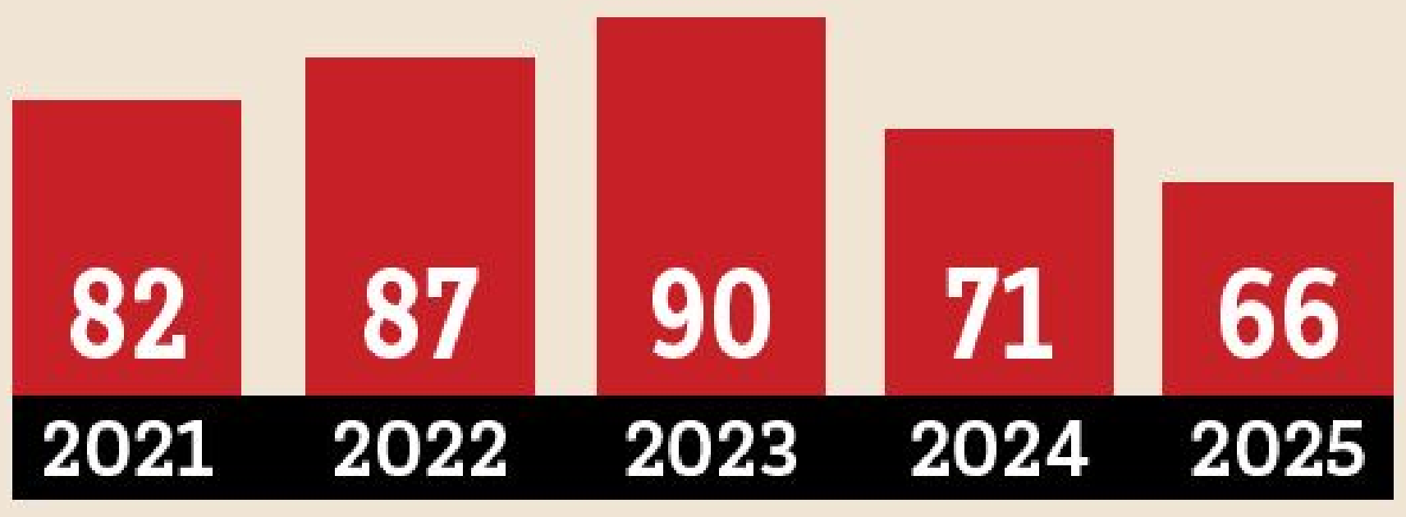
Shortstop CJ Abrams and second baseman Luis García Jr. were supposed to be the Nats' middle infield for a generation, but neither seems so rock-solid anymore. Abrams has failed to show much linear improvement across his three

Nationals Park

Opened: 2008 • Capacity: 41,373
Left: 337' Center: 402' Right: 335'
Tickets: 202-675-6287
mlb.com/NATIONALS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Most hit by pitches thrown as a team, 2025

1.	**Nationals**	**89**
T2.	Athletics	80
T2.	Mets	80
4.	Mariners	74
T5.	Red Sox	73
T5.	Rockies	73
T5.	Pirates	73

full seasons as a starter, and the Nats reportedly explored trades for him over the winter. As for García, he regressed both at the plate and in the field in 2025, and the team has signaled an intention to shift him to first base eventually, which could open up second for glove man Nasim Nuñez in the short term and prospect Seaver King in the more distant future. One other intriguing possibility: Nuñez could wind up at shortstop, owing to his superior glove, with Abrams shifting to second. In other words, it should be an interesting spring for this group.

CORNERS

It was partly the lack of suitable first base options that led the Nationals to explore a move of García from second to first. But there are other short-term options here should the Nats decide to keep García at second, including veteran Andrés Chaparro and fringy prospects Yohandy Morales and Sam Brown. As for third base, the job will belong to former top prospect Brady House, who arrived last summer with huge expectations that were at least partially met: His glove work far exceeded his plate production. But the Nats think House can still put it all together in his first full season in the majors.

CJ ABRAMS

OUTFIELD

This might be the unit where the Nats enjoy the most organizational depth. At least five players could be significant contributors in 2026, led by All-Star Wood and the talented Dylan Crews, plus center field defensive wizard Jacob Young, Robert Hassell III and promising youngster Daylen Lile, who made an auspicious debut in 2025. Wood, a 6-foot-7 behemoth with outrageous power, needs to show he can put it together for a full season following last year's second-half collapse. Crews is capable of playing any of the three positions but still needs to establish himself at the plate. One wild card is prospect Christian Franklin, whom the Nats acquired from the Chicago Cubs in last year's Michael Soroka trade. He has excelled in Triple-A.

CATCHING

Perhaps no one on the Nats' roster has more on the line in 2026 than Keibert Ruiz. Can the 27-year-old former franchise cornerstone keep himself on the field after last season's bouts with concussions? And if he does, can he produce enough to keep himself in the lineup? In parts of five seasons in D.C., he has yet to produce better than a 1.5 bWAR. If Ruiz keeps faltering, the Nats have options in veteran backup Riley Adams, steady bat Drew Millas and intriguing prospect Harry Ford. Ford, part of the return from Seattle for reliever Jose A. Ferrer, had been a top-five prospect in the Mariners' system since being drafted with the 12th overall pick in 2021 and has hit at every level of the minors.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

DH	James Wood (L)
SS	CJ Abrams (L)
LF	Daylen Lile (L)
RF	Dylan Crews (R)
1B	Luis García Jr. (L)
C	Keibert Ruiz (S)
3B	Brady House (R)
CF	Robert Hassell III (L)
2B	Nasim Nuñez (S)

■ BENCH

INF	José Tena (L)
OF	Jacob Young (R)
C	Riley Adams (R)
1B/3B	Andrés Chaparro (R)

■ ROTATION

LHP	MacKenzie Gore
RHP	Cade Cavalli
RHP	Brad Lord
RHP	Josiah Gray
LHP	Foster Griffin

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Clayton Beeter (C)
RHP	Cole Henry
LHP	Mitchell Parker
LHP	PJ Poulin
LHP	Konnor Pilkington
RHP	Julian Fernández
RHP	Jackson Rutledge
RHP	Orlando Ribalta

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE NATIONALS "They're changing around everything, and they had to. It's a very boring team, boring stadium, boring everything. I love James Wood; I think he's going to be something. He's a butcher in the field, but he's got a good idea for being so young, uses the whole field and hits everything hard. I like CJ Abrams a lot, he's going to be good for a long time, and the Harry Ford trade made a lot of sense — when a bad team can get a young, everyday player for a reliever, they should do it every time. I haven't seen much yet from Dylan Crews, so I wouldn't call him a foundational piece just yet. The bullpen was putrid, there's no other way to put it, and their starters just gave up so many hits. The roster as a whole just needs a lot of work."

BRAD MILLS-IMAGN IMAGES

DH/BENCH

Veteran Josh Bell got the bulk of the playing time at DH in 2025, and with him now gone, the Nats are likely to use the spot as a way of keeping all their outfield candidates in the lineup. With Wood still only 23, it’s too early to call him a full-time DH — and he remains a serviceable corner outfielder — but with the team holding better defensive options, he could land here far more often this season. Meanwhile, José Tena is expected to be back as the utility infielder, with Chaparro penciled into a roster spot as a backup first baseman/DH candidate.

MANAGEMENT

Is this the youngest braintrust in baseball history? In addition to 30-somethings Toboni and Butera atop the organizational chart — the latter of whom will be the youngest manager in the big leagues in more than 50 years — most of the lieutenants they chose to surround themselves with are from the same generation. That group includes 31-year-old general manager Ani Kilambi, 30-year-old pitching coach Simon Matthews and 35-year-old hitting coach Matt Borgschulte. It will be a massive change for an organization headed for years by Rizzo and Martinez, who also surrounded themselves mostly with figures from their generation. In Toboni, Kilambi and Butera, the Nats will have the youngest team president, GM and manager in the majors.

FINAL ANALYSIS

Despite all the changes in leadership, the 2026 Nationals are essentially in the same position as the 2025 edition: relying on much the same core group of young players to all make leaps forward. Last year, it was Wood and Gore who did so. This year, the Nats hope it will be some combination of Ruiz, Abrams, Crews and House, and perhaps pitchers such as Parker, Lord and Beeter. While that type of optimism is not exactly a winning formula for 2026, any such progress would be a good start towards getting this franchise back into contention for future seasons.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

SWING AND A MISS Longtime Nats general manager Mike Rizzo won far more trades than he lost, but the 2021 deadline blockbuster that sent Trea Turner and Max Scherzer to the Dodgers was not his finest moment. Of the four prospects the Nats received in return, Keibert Ruiz and Josiah Gray have both disappointed at the big league level, and Gerardo Carrillo and Donovan Casey are out of the organization, having failed to make the majors.

MINOR ISSUES One good measure of how bleak things looked for the Nats’ new regime when it took over this winter: The organization’s full-season affiliates were a combined 52 games under .500 in 2025, with the 59-88 mark by Triple-A Rochester looming particularly ominous for a franchise frequently needing reinforcements for its big-league roster.

GETTING IT DONE In what was an otherwise miserable season for the Nats, the emergence of righthander Brad Lord was a rare bright spot. An 18th-round draft pick in 2022, Lord supplemented his minor-league income by working at Home Depot in his offseasons. But he was a surprise addition to the big-league roster last March (getting his first career strikeout against Shohei Ohtani) and made contributions throughout the season as both a starter and reliever — more so the latter.

CHAMPION HOLDOVER Sean Doolittle, the Nationals’ assistant pitching coach, holds two distinctions for the franchise: He is the only holdover from the Davey Martinez/Miguel Cairo regime who was retained by new manager Blake Butera, and he is also the last remaining uniformed personnel who played on the 2019 World Series championship squad. Doolittle, a lefty reliever, pitched 60 innings and converted 29 saves for the Nats that season.

Schedule

■ HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 ▨ CHC	27	28 ▨ CHC
29 ▨ CHC	30 ▨ PHI	31 ▨ PHI	1 ▨ PHI	2	3 ■ LAD	4 ■ LAD
5 ■ LAD	6 ■ STL	7 ■ STL	8 ■ STL	9	10 ▨ MIL	11 ▨ MIL
12 ▨ MIL	13 ▨ PIT	14 ▨ PIT	15 ▨ PIT	16 ▨ PIT	17 ■ SF	18 ■ SF
19 ■ SF	20 ■ ATL	21 ■ ATL	22 ■ ATL	23 ■ ATL	24 ▨ CWS	25 ▨ CWS
26 ▨ CWS	27	28 ▨ NYM	29 ▨ NYM	30 ▨ NYM		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ■ MIL	2 ■ MIL
3 ■ MIL	4	5 ■ MIN	6 ■ MIN	7 ■ MIN	8 ▨ MIA	9 ▨ MIA
10 ▨ MIA	11	12 ▨ CIN	13 ▨ CIN	14 ▨ CIN	15 ■ BAL	16 ■ BAL
17 ■ BAL	18 ■ NYM	19 ■ NYM	20 ■ NYM	21 ■ NYM	22 ▨ ATL	23 ▨ ATL
24 ▨ ATL	25 ▨ CLE	26 ▨ CLE	27 ▨ CLE	28	29 ■ SD	30 ■ SD
31 ■ SD						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 ■ MIA	2 ■ MIA	3 ■ MIA	4	5 ▨ ARI	6 ▨ ARI
7 ▨ ARI	8 ▨ SF	9 ▨ SF	10 ▨ SF	11	12 ■ SEA	13 ■ SEA
14 ■ SEA	15 ■ KC	16 ■ KC	17 ■ KC	18	19 ▨ TB	20 ▨ TB
21 ▨ TB	22 ■ PHI	23 ■ PHI	24 ■ PHI	25 ■ PHI	26 ▨ BAL	27 ▨ BAL
28 ▨ BAL	29 ▨ BOS	30 ▨ BOS				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 ▨ BOS	2	3 ■ PIT	4 ■ PIT
5 ■ PIT	6 ■ HOU	7 ■ HOU	8 ■ HOU	9	10 ■ NYY	11 ■ NYY
12 ■ NYY	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 ▨ A’s	18 ▨ A’s
19 ▨ A’s	20 ▨ COL	21 ▨ COL	22 ▨ COL	23	24 ■ ARI	25 ■ ARI
26 ■ ARI	27 ■ TOR	28 ■ TOR	29 ■ TOR	30 ▨ ATL	31 ▨ ATL	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 ▨ ATL
2 ▨ ATL	3 ▨ PHI	4 ▨ PHI	5 ▨ PHI	6 ▨ PHI	7 ■ CIN	8 ■ CIN
9 ■ CIN	10	11 ■ CHC	12 ■ CHC	13 ■ CHC	14 ▨ NYM	15 ▨ NYM
16 ▨ NYM	17	18 ▨ TEX	19 ▨ TEX	20 ▨ TEX	21 ▨ MIA	22 ▨ MIA
23 ▨ MIA	24 ■ COL	25 ■ COL	26 ■ COL	27 ■ COL	28 ■ MIA	29 ■ MIA
30 ■ MIA	31 ■ MIA					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 ■ ATL	2 ■ ATL	3	4 ▨ LAD	5 ▨ LAD
6 ▨ LAD	7 ▨ SD	8 ▨ SD	9 ▨ SD	10	11 ■ LAA	12 ■ LAA
13 ■ LAA	14	15 ■ PHI	16 ■ PHI	17	18 ▨ STL	19 ▨ STL
20 ▨ STL	21 ▨ DET	22 ▨ DET	23 ▨ DET	24	25 ■ NYM	26 ■ NYM
27 ■ NYM	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

38 Number of homers allowed by RHP Jake Irvin in 2025, seven more than any other NL pitcher.

◆

20 The number of pitches clocked at 100+ mph in the Arizona Fall League season thrown by Luis Perales, whom Washington acquired from Boston in December, out of 43 such total pitches thrown.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

SARAH PHIPPS/THE OKLAHOMAN

1. Eli Willits, SS (18) Played 15 games at Single-A Fredericksburg as a 17-year-old and more than held his own (.300/.397/.360).

2. Jarlin Susanna, RHP (22) This 6-foot-6 flamethrower regularly hits 100+ mph with his fastball.

3. Harry Ford, C (23) Has exceptional strike-zone awareness and surprising speed for a catcher.

4. Travis Sykora, RHP (21) Despite elbow surgery that will keep him sidelined for most or all of 2026, he has massive upside.

5. Luis Perales, RHP (22) Generates exceptional velocity and huge strikeout totals from a slight frame.

6. Alex Clemmey, LHP (20) He's a 6-foot-6 specimen with a mid-90s fastball but has struggled with walks.

7. Seaver King, SS (22) Strong showing in AFL has him trending upward; only question is whether he stays at SS.

8. Luke Dickerson, SS (20) Figures to see a lot of time at 2B, given his weaker arm and Nats' depth at SS.

9. Landon Harmon, RHP (19) Has a fastball that touches 99 mph and a projectible 6-foot-5 frame.

10. Ethan Petry, OF/1B (21) Elite power but shaky glove work makes him a candidate for DH duty down the line.

Nationals Roster

President of Baseball Operations: Paul Toboni • **Manager:** Blake Butera • **Coaches:** Grant Anders (development), Andrew Aydt (asst. hitting/asst. director of hitting), Matt Borgschulte (hitting), Sean Doolittle (asst. pitching), Victor Estevez (third base), Dustin Glant (asst. pitching/bullpen), Michael Johns (bench), Simon Mathews (pitching), Shawn O'Malley (asst. hitting), Corey Ray (first base), Bobby Wilson (catching/run game coordinator)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
54	Andrew Alvarez	L-L	6-3	215	6/13/99	**WASHINGTON**	1-1	2.31	5	5	0	23.1	16	10	20
						Rochester (AAA)	3-7	4.10	25	25	0	123.0	114	52	114
39	Clayton Beeter	R-R	6-2	220	10/9/98	**WASHINGTON**	0-2	2.49	24	0	1	21.2	8	14	32
						Rochester (AAA)	0-0	6.75	3	0	0	4.0	2	4	7
						NEW YORK AL	0-1	14.73	2	0	0	3.2	5	4	1
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	1-0	3.10	18	0	2	20.1	17	16	33
24	Cade Cavalli	R-R	6-4	223	8/14/98	**WASHINGTON**	3-1	4.25	10	10	0	48.2	57	15	40
						Rochester (AAA)	3-7	6.09	15	15	0	65.0	74	27	72
55	Riley Cornelio	R-R	6-3	195	6/6/00	Rochester (AAA)	1-3	5.35	8	8	0	35.1	35	13	38
						Harrisburg (AA)	4-2	2.31	12	11	0	66.1	39	26	58
						Wilmington (A+)	1-2	3.03	7	7	0	32.2	25	16	39
46	Jake Eder	L-L	6-4	225	10/9/98	**LOS ANGELES AL**	0-1	4.91	8	0	0	18.1	15	9	15
						Salt Lake (AAA)	2-7	6.11	13	13	0	63.1	77	16	52
						Rochester (AAA)	0-2	12.60	2	2	0	5.0	9	4	9
						Harrisburg (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	2.0	1	0	1
65	Julian Fernández	R-R	6-6	230	12/5/95	**WASHINGTON**	1-0	3.00	3	0	0	3.0	1	1	4
						Rochester (AAA)	1-2	7.82	12	0	1	12.2	21	3	18
						LOS ANGELES NL	0-0	9.00	1	0	0	2.0	2	1	1
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	3-0	3.05	35	4	4	41.1	37	15	49
1	MacKenzie Gore	L-L	6-2	193	2/24/99	**WASHINGTON**	5-15	4.17	30	30	0	159.2	152	64	185
40	Josiah Gray	R-R	6-1	209	12/21/97	Rochester (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	2.2	0	3	2
						Harrisburg (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.2	4	0	2
						Wilmington (A+)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.1	0	2	1
	Foster Griffin	R-L	6-3	225	7/27/95	Yomiuri (Japan CL)	6-1	1.62	14	NA	0	78.0	56	18	77
						Yomiuri (Japan EL)	0-0	0.82	3	NA	0	11.0	8	4	10
99	Cole Henry	R-R	6-4	200	7/15/99	**WASHINGTON**	1-2	4.27	57	0	2	52.2	43	32	52
77	DJ Herz	R-L	6-2	197	1/4/01	Injured — Missed Season									
27	Jake Irvin	R-R	6-6	234	2/18/97	**WASHINGTON**	9-13	5.70	33	33	0	180.0	195	62	124
73	Sauryn Lao	R-R	6-2	182	8/14/99	**WASHINGTON**	1-0	3.52	6	0	0	7.2	8	1	5
						Rochester (AAA)	0-0	1.59	3	0	0	5.2	5	2	2
						SEATTLE	0-0	8.10	2	0	0	3.1	6	1	4
						Tacoma (AAA)	2-4	3.13	22	19	1	69.0	61	19	73
72	Andry Lara	R-R	6-4	180	1/6/03	**WASHINGTON**	0-0	8.79	9	0	0	14.1	27	8	10
						Rochester (AAA)	1-6	8.92	17	6	0	36.1	50	22	26
						Harrisburg (AA)	0-2	10.80	2	2	0	8.1	14	5	5
						Wilmington (A+)	0-1	0.79	3	2	0	11.1	10	4	10
41	Brad Lord	R-R	6-3	210	2/14/00	**WASHINGTON**	5-10	4.34	48	19	0	130.2	126	43	108
25	Griff McGarry	R-R	6-2	190	6/8/99	Lehigh Valley (AAA)	1-0	1.80	1	1	0	5.0	1	2	8
						Reading (AA)	1-4	3.25	17	17	0	72.0	44	45	103
						Clearwater (A)	0-1	6.75	3	3	0	6.2	8	2	13
70	Mitchell Parker	L-L	6-4	239	9/27/99	**WASHINGTON**	9-16	5.68	33	30	1	164.2	178	58	103
43	Luis Perales	R-R	6-1	160	4/14/03	Worcester (AAA)	0-0	13.50	2	0	0	1.1	0	2	4
45	Konnor Pilkington	L-L	6-3	240	9/12/97	**WASHINGTON**	2-0	4.45	32	0	0	28.1	22	17	34
						Rochester (AAA)	4-3	2.59	36	3	2	41.2	23	27	50
50	PJ Poulin	R-L	6-1	195	7/25/96	**WASHINGTON**	2-1	3.65	28	0	1	24.2	23	13	27
						Toledo (AAA)	7-1	3.38	35	3	2	42.2	38	17	62
64	Orlando Ribalta	R-R	6-7	245	3/5/98	**WASHINGTON**	0-0	7.03	22	0	0	24.1	28	17	25
						Rochester (AAA)	0-0	2.57	7	0	0	7.0	7	2	6
44	Jackson Rutledge	R-R	6-8	241	4/1/99	**WASHINGTON**	4-2	5.77	63	0	0	73.1	87	24	65
32	Trevor Williams	R-R	6-3	231	4/25/92	**WASHINGTON**	3-10	6.21	17	17	0	82.2	106	21	65

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
15	Riley Adams	R-R	6-4	263	6/26/96	**WASHINGTON**	.186	83	263	29	49	8	24	18	110	1
17	Harry Ford	R-R	5-10	200	2/21/03	**SEATTLE**	.167	8	6	1	1	0	1	0	3	0
						Tacoma (AAA)	.283	97	374	68	106	16	74	74	88	7
14	Drew Millas	S-R	6-1	204	1/15/98	**WASHINGTON**	.306	18	49	6	15	0	7	4	7	2
						Rochester (AAA)	.247	52	190	27	47	4	25	17	25	8
20	Keibert Ruiz	S-R	6-0	238	7/20/98	**WASHINGTON**	.247	68	255	19	63	2	25	8	26	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
5	CJ Abrams	L-R	6-0	191	10/3/00	**WASHINGTON**	.257	144	580	92	149	19	60	37	125	31
						Harrisburg (AA)	.000	2	4	0	0	0	1	2	1	0
87	Andrés Chaparro	R-R	6-0	200	5/4/99	**WASHINGTON**	.182	34	66	4	12	1	5	5	22	0
						Rochester (AAA)	.275	48	182	31	50	14	45	32	50	1
						FCL Nationals (R)	.267	5	15	1	4	1	3	2	5	0
2	Luis García Jr.	L-R	6-1	216	5/16/00	**WASHINGTON**	.252	139	488	67	123	16	66	27	84	14
12	Brady House	R-R	6-4	208	6/4/03	**WASHINGTON**	.234	73	261	26	61	4	29	8	78	5
						Rochester (AAA)	.304	65	260	42	79	13	41	20	75	0
26	Nasim Nuñez	S-R	5-8	165	8/18/00	**WASHINGTON**	.232	39	82	13	19	4	13	8	20	9
						Rochester (AAA)	.254	63	201	37	51	2	29	25	58	36
8	José Tena	L-R	5-11	195	3/20/01	**WASHINGTON**	.243	50	152	19	37	0	16	15	37	3
						Rochester (AAA)	.287	52	209	27	60	5	24	30	59	21

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
3	Dylan Crews	R-R	6-0	203	2/26/02	**WASHINGTON**	.208	85	293	43	61	10	27	24	76	17
						Rochester (AAA)	.244	13	41	5	10	2	7	1	7	1
33	Christian Franklin	R-R	5-9	195	11/30/99	Rochester (AAA)	.290	31	124	16	36	4	23	17	30	8
						Iowa (AAA)	.265	86	321	61	85	8	41	63	80	11
6	Robert Hassell III	L-L	6-1	186	8/15/01	**WASHINGTON**	.223	70	197	22	44	3	18	8	62	4
						Rochester (AAA)	.310	76	294	45	91	10	49	35	57	16
4	Daylen Lile	L-R	5-11	195	11/30/02	**WASHINGTON**	.299	91	321	51	96	9	41	21	56	8
						Rochester (AAA)	.337	26	104	18	35	2	15	11	20	6
						Harrisburg (AA)	.319	21	91	17	29	2	14	3	13	6
29	James Wood	L-R	6-7	234	9/17/02	**WASHINGTON**	.256	157	598	87	153	31	94	85	221	15
30	Jacob Young	R-R	5-11	192	7/27/99	**WASHINGTON**	.231	120	324	34	75	2	31	27	65	15
						Harrisburg (AA)	.273	3	11	2	3	0	1	1	1	1

Chicago CUBS

2026 PREDICTION
2ND
NL CENTRAL
2025 FINISH: 2ND (92-70)

How many Goliaths could David have slain before one of them wised up and grabbed a rock of his own? That's the rhetorical question Cubs fans might be asking, as the Milwaukee Brewers prepare to defend their string of three straight division titles and continue to hold bragging rights over their larger, more financially muscular neighbors.

Chicago finally broke through in 2025, returning to the playoffs for their first meaningful run (and enjoying their first truly satisfying season) since 2017. The expectation is that they match or top that campaign in 2026, and in pursuit of that objective, president of baseball operations Jed Hoyer changed his approach over the winter. By trading a top prospect for a controllable frontline arm and signing a superstar to a team-record deal, Hoyer pushed his chips into the middle of the felt. The Cubs have taken up their slings and stones.

PETE CROW-ARMSTRONG

KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI-IMAGN IMAGES

ROTATION

Chicago specializes in finding pitchers who succeed despite lower-than-average strikeout rates. Erstwhile ace Justin Steele won't be back until summer after having elbow surgery last April, but he's the embodiment of the team's approach: Fill up the zone, maximize deception and avoid hard contact by employing unique pitch shapes. Fellow lefthander Shota Imanaga returns to the mix, while Matthew Boyd and Colin Rea — two mid-30s journeymen who responded in pitch-perfect fashion to the Cubs' molding — enter their second season with the club. For a big change of pace, the team traded a package of prospects for flamethrowing righty Edward Cabrera, from the Marlins. With a wicked combination of a firm changeup and a sharp curveball, Cabrera is the bat-misser the team had been missing. The real ace, though, is Cade Horton. After finishing second in NL Rookie of the Year balloting in 2025, Horton looks to compete for Cy Young Award votes in his first full season in the majors. He has some of the same movement characteristics as Steele, but his arsenal is deeper, and his changeup is much better.

BULLPEN

Daniel Palencia's hellacious fastball touches 102 mph and has good life, running away from left-handed batters. He lacks a consistent, trustworthy secondary pitch but can still be a solid closer. Behind him, the team has assembled a low-cost cluster of veterans whose skills outpace their reputations. Longtime setup man Phil Maton signed a two-year deal to spin his cutter and curveball into strikeouts for the North Siders, while lefties Caleb Thielbar (over the top) and Hoby Milner (sidearm, almost submarine) offer extremely disparate looks in the middle innings. Ben Brown and Javier Assad could factor in as long relievers, but the team has also taken low-level fliers on a trio of righties who could be high-leverage one-inning options: Collin Snider, Jacob Webb and Hunter Harvey.

MIDDLE INFIELD

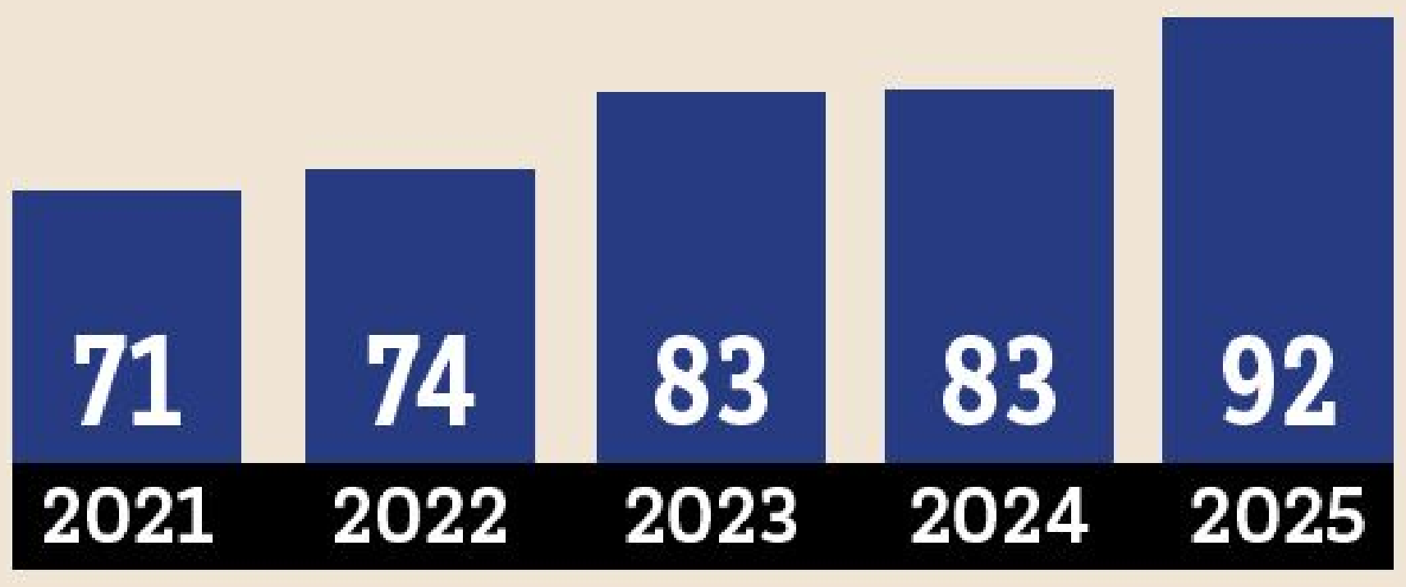
The Cubs' greatest strength is up-the-middle defense, and in Nico Hoerner and Dansby Swanson, they have players who don't hurt them when it's their turn to

Wrigley Field

Opened: 1914 • Capacity: 41,649
Left: 355′ Center: 400′ Right: 353′
Tickets: 800-THE-CUBS
mlb.com/CUBS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Single-season outs above average leaders among NL players, 2023-25

1. P. Crow-Armstrong, Cubs, 2025	**24**
2. K. Hayes, Pirates/Reds, 2025	21
3. Masyn Winn, Cardinals, 2025	21
4. Dansby Swanson, Cubs, 2023	**20**
5. Jacob Young, Nationals, 2024	20

bat, either. Hoerner has established himself as the game's best defensive second baseman, despite a below-average arm. He generates clean singles at perhaps the highest rate in baseball and rarely strikes out, though he'll never run up especially impressive walk or home run totals. Swanson has lost a step and a bit of zip on his throws from the hole at shortstop, but great instincts and a high baseball IQ enable him to cover ample ground. When healthy, he still has 20-homer power. Both players were exceptionally valuable on the bases in 2025, as baserunning coaches Jose Javier and Quintin Berry made Chicago one of the best teams in the league in that regard.

CORNERS

With one huge mid-January swing, the Cubs changed the narrative around their roster enormously. Alex Bregman brings an All-Star pedigree and one of the game's most robust clubhouse reputations. His swing speed is below-average, but he maximizes contact and makes sterling swing decisions. Michael Busch is the best hitter you've never heard of — a late bloomer the Cubs scooped up from the Dodgers via trade who now looks like a long-term answer at first base. His 34 home runs in the regular season (and four more in October) anchored Chicago's attack all summer.

DANSBY SWANSON

OUTFIELD

After a one-year indulgence in the luxury item that is Kyle Tucker, the Cubs' plan is to return to the work of developing a homegrown core. Tenured team leader Ian Happ is extremely well-rounded, a four-time Gold Glove winner in left field and a solid switch-hitter. Pete Crow-Armstrong briefly looked like a legitimate MVP candidate last season, with plus-plus power syncing up with his extraordinary speed and defensive skills. He spiraled downward in the second half, though, a victim of his own extreme aggressiveness at the plate. In right field, Seiya Suzuki is likely to return to regular work and will try to reprise the power breakout he enjoyed by adjusting his approach to prioritize pulling the ball in 2025. The next man up is lanky, athletic Kevin Alcántara, who can spell Crow-Armstrong in center field and shield him from tough left-handed pitchers.

PROJECTED LINEUP

▪ LINEUP

1B	Michael Busch (L)
3B	Alex Bregman (R)
LF	Ian Happ (S)
RF	Seiya Suzuki (R)
DH	Moisés Ballesteros (L)
2B	Nico Hoerner (R)
CF	Pete Crow-Armstrong (L)
C	Miguel Amaya (R)
SS	Dansby Swanson (R)

▪ BENCH

C	Carson Kelly (R)
1B	Tyler Austin (R)
INF	Matt Shaw (R)
OF	Kevin Alcántara (R)

▪ ROTATION

RHP	Cade Horton
RHP	Edward Cabrera
LHP	Matthew Boyd
LHP	Shota Imanaga
RHP	Jameson Taillon

▪ BULLPEN

RHP	Daniel Palencia (C)
RHP	Phil Maton
LHP	Caleb Thielbar
LHP	Hoby Milner
RHP	Ben Brown
RHP	Jacob Webb
RHP	Hunter Harvey
RHP	Colin Rea

BENNY SIEU-IMAGN IMAGES

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE CUBS "They've got the most talent in the division. You look up and down the lineup and you're like, 'Where's the out?' They're dangerous all the way through, and they've got excellent defenders everywhere. Pete Crow-Armstrong and Ian Happ get to everything in the outfield, and they're strong up the middle with Dansby Swanson and Nico Hoerner. At times, it seemed like they played like their manager was pissed off at them; I guess that can be a good thing because they hold themselves to a high standard. But sometimes they just seemed tense. Like how does PCA go a month without hitting? He disappeared in August and wasn't much better at the end, and he's better than that. They've got a very solid rotation — you trust guys like Matthew Boyd, Jameson Taillon and Colin Rea — and Cade Horton is a candidate to break out into an ace. Getting Justin Steele back will be a big boost, whenever it happens. He doesn't need to rush back because the Cubs should be good enough to be at or near the top of the division all season. They lost a couple of key bullpen arms, but Craig Counsell has always been able to find those guys, so I don't worry about that."

CATCHING

The tandem of Miguel Amaya and Carson Kelly fits together nicely, not because their strengths and weaknesses balance (both are right-handed hitters who thrive by going on streaks of power production; both are good receivers but average throwers), but because each needs protection from overuse and overexposure. Amaya seemed on the cusp of a true star turn in 2025, but oblique and ankle injuries derailed his progress. He's made multiple swing and stance changes since the middle of 2024, and when he is in the lineup, he profiles as an above-average hitter. Kelly filled in admirably (and earned some contract incentives) by playing more often than expected, but his early offensive surge gave way to a long slump.

DH/BENCH

After trading prospect Owen Caissie in the Cabrera deal, the Cubs will almost certainly rely on Moisés Ballesteros as the regular DH. Ballesteros stayed stride-for-stride with Caissie throughout their minor-league apprenticeships, and although he has much less raw power, he's an above-average contact hitter. Minor signing Tyler Austin will get assignments against lefties at times, but Ballesteros has a clear path to playing time, with Suzuki returning to right field most days.

MANAGEMENT

Hoyer made a rare top-of-the-market move when he peeled Craig Counsell away from Milwaukee to manage his former team's most hated rival. Counsell has given the team a greater sense of legitimacy and raised expectations, but he has not been able to push the Cubs past the Crew. Chicago needs to improve at building the bench and at developing promising young players, but the Cubs are better than most teams at identifying players who might have been fringe contributors elsewhere and making them into solid pieces of above-average rosters.

FINAL ANALYSIS

Trading for Cabrera and signing Bregman elevated both the floor and the ceiling for the Cubs. For the first time since before the pandemic, they enter the season as a legitimate threat to win the division. With the right break in October, they could render their fans' wait for a pennant much shorter than the last one was.

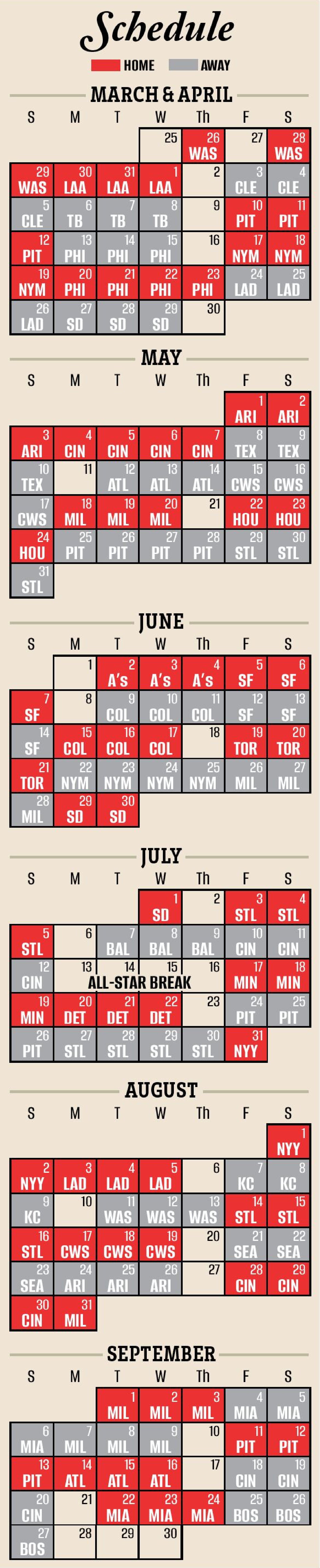
BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

OPEN THE WALLET The Ricketts family (and team president Crane Kenney, their most frequent mouthpiece) has made a habit of insisting that their revenues are insufficient to spend $300 million per year on payroll, as their fellow big-market teams in New York, Los Angeles, Toronto and Philadelphia routinely do. It's an increasingly untenable claim, especially in the wake of seasons with strong attendance and after the cash infusion of last fall's playoff appearance.

MR. CHARISMA Pete Crow-Armstrong enjoyed a star turn, in ways that went beyond his dynamic play. Unguarded and personable, he became one of the league's most popular players, famous as much for his blue-dyed hair and swagger as for his diving catches and stolen bases.

A LONG-AWAITED RETURN For the first time since 1990, Wrigley Field will host the All-Star Game in 2027, the league and the team announced late last summer. Security requirements and league politics had kept the exhibition away from the North Side for a generation; the team worked hard with local government and the league office to clear the hurdles in their way.

WHAT ARE THE ODDS? Longtime first baseman Anthony Rizzo officially retired from Major League Baseball in September, signing a one-day contract to end his career as a Cub. On the day on which the Cubs feted him at Wrigley Field, he sat among the fans in the bleachers in left-center field — and had a chance to catch a home run by rookie Moisés Ballesteros, which caromed off his bare hand. "That's why I'm retired," Rizzo could be seen saying to neighboring fans.



Schedule

🟥 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 WAS 🟥	27	28 WAS 🟥
29 WAS 🟥	30 LAA 🟥	31 LAA 🟥	1 LAA 🟥	2	3 CLE ▨	4 CLE ▨
5 CLE ▨	6 TB ▨	7 TB ▨	8 TB ▨	9	10 PIT 🟥	11 PIT 🟥
12 PIT 🟥	13 PHI ▨	14 PHI ▨	15 PHI ▨	16	17 NYM 🟥	18 NYM 🟥
19 NYM 🟥	20 PHI 🟥	21 PHI 🟥	22 PHI 🟥	23 PHI 🟥	24 LAD ▨	25 LAD ▨
26 LAD ▨	27 SD ▨	28 SD ▨	29 SD ▨	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ARI 🟥	2 ARI 🟥
3 ARI 🟥	4 CIN 🟥	5 CIN 🟥	6 CIN 🟥	7 CIN 🟥	8 TEX ▨	9 TEX ▨
10 TEX ▨	11	12 ATL ▨	13 ATL ▨	14 ATL ▨	15 CWS ▨	16 CWS ▨
17 CWS ▨	18 MIL 🟥	19 MIL 🟥	20 MIL 🟥	21	22 HOU 🟥	23 HOU 🟥
24 HOU 🟥	25 PIT ▨	26 PIT ▨	27 PIT ▨	28 PIT ▨	29 STL ▨	30 STL ▨
31 STL ▨						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2 A's 🟥	3 A's 🟥	4 A's 🟥	5 SF 🟥	6 SF 🟥
7 SF 🟥	8	9 COL ▨	10 COL ▨	11 COL ▨	12 SF ▨	13 SF ▨
14 SF ▨	15 COL 🟥	16 COL 🟥	17 COL 🟥	18	19 TOR 🟥	20 TOR 🟥
21 TOR 🟥	22 NYM ▨	23 NYM ▨	24 NYM ▨	25 NYM ▨	26 MIL ▨	27 MIL ▨
28 MIL ▨	29 SD 🟥	30 SD 🟥				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 SD 🟥	2	3 STL 🟥	4 STL 🟥
5 STL 🟥	6	7 BAL ▨	8 BAL ▨	9 BAL ▨	10 CIN ▨	11 CIN ▨
12 CIN ▨	13	14 ALL-STAR BREAK	15	16	17 MIN 🟥	18 MIN 🟥
19 MIN 🟥	20 DET 🟥	21 DET 🟥	22 DET 🟥	23	24 PIT ▨	25 PIT ▨
26 PIT ▨	27 STL ▨	28 STL ▨	29 STL ▨	30 STL ▨	31 NYY 🟥	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 NYY 🟥
2 NYY 🟥	3 LAD 🟥	4 LAD 🟥	5 LAD 🟥	6	7 KC ▨	8 KC ▨
9 KC ▨	10	11 WAS ▨	12 WAS ▨	13 WAS ▨	14 STL 🟥	15 STL 🟥
16 STL 🟥	17 CWS 🟥	18 CWS 🟥	19 CWS 🟥	20	21 SEA ▨	22 SEA ▨
23 SEA ▨	24 ARI ▨	25 ARI ▨	26 ARI ▨	27	28 CIN 🟥	29 CIN 🟥
30 CIN 🟥	31 MIL 🟥					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 MIL 🟥	2 MIL 🟥	3 MIL 🟥	4 MIA ▨	5 MIA ▨
6 MIA ▨	7 MIL ▨	8 MIL ▨	9 MIL ▨	10	11 PIT 🟥	12 PIT 🟥
13 PIT 🟥	14 ATL 🟥	15 ATL 🟥	16 ATL 🟥	17	18 CIN ▨	19 CIN ▨
20 CIN ▨	21	22 MIA 🟥	23 MIA 🟥	24 MIA 🟥	25 BOS ▨	26 BOS ▨
27 BOS ▨	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

70.9 In mph, the average swing speed for Cubs batters, 28th in MLB. As with pitching, they prefer to build around subtle skills, like contact rate, plate discipline and using the whole field.

◆

92.8 In mph, the average fastball velocity for Cubs starting pitchers in 2025, 22nd in the league. Succeeding without paying a premium for elite velocity is a huge part of the team's philosophy.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

ANGELINA ALCANTAR/NEWS SENTINEL

1. Jaxon Wiggins, RHP (24) Triple-digit fastball highlights the arsenal; could debut in 2026.

2. Moisés Ballesteros, C/DH (22) Excellent bet to hit well in the majors but not to stay behind the plate.

3. Jefferson Rojas, SS (20) Elevation to Double-A went poorly, but looks like a dynamic two-way contributor.

4. Ethan Conrad, OF (21) Cubs believe they got a first-round steal in this lefty-hitting outfielder.

5. Kevin Alcántara, OF (23) Tall, lanky athlete with both power and speed, but feel to hit has been shaky.

6. Jonathon Long, 1B (24) Good athlete for a first baseman but needs better power to fit there.

7. Pedro Ramirez, INF (22) Won't stick at shortstop as a regular but can be a strong bench piece.

8. Josiah Hartshorn, OF (19) Cubs paid an overslot bonus to land him in 2025 draft. Big upside, but far away.

9. Nazier Mulé, RHP (21) Hoping to break out in third year after Tommy John surgery as a teenager.

10. Juan Cabada, INF (17) Will move quickly with his polished approach and smooth left-handed swing.

Cubs Roster

President, Baseball Operations: Jed Hoyer • **Manager:** Craig Counsell • **Coaches:** Quintin Berry (third base), Juan Cabreja (asst. hitting), Ryan Flaherty (bench), Tommy Hottovy (pitching), Casey Jacobson (asst. pitching), Jose Javier (first base), Dustin Kelly (hitting), John Mallee (asst. hitting), Jonathan Mota, Alex Smith (strategy), Mark Strittmatter (bullpen)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
72	Javier Assad	R-R	6-1	200	7/30/97	**CHICAGO NL**	**4-1**	**3.65**	**8**	**7**	**0**	**37.0**	**33**	**12**	**23**
						Iowa (AAA)	0-0	2.93	4	4	0	15.1	15	7	15
						ACL Cubs (R)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	3.0	1	0	6
16	Matthew Boyd	L-L	6-3	223	2/2/91	**CHICAGO NL**	**14-8**	**3.21**	**31**	**31**	**0**	**179.2**	**154**	**42**	**154**
32	Ben Brown	R-R	6-6	210	9/9/99	**CHICAGO NL**	**5-8**	**5.92**	**25**	**15**	**1**	**106.1**	**121**	**32**	**121**
						Iowa (AAA)	1-0	0.82	3	2	0	11.0	5	2	8
	Edward Cabrera	R-R	6-5	217	4/13/98	**MIAMI**	**8-7**	**3.53**	**26**	**26**	**0**	**137.2**	**121**	**48**	**150**
						Jacksonville (AAA)	0-0	2.57	2	2	0	7.0	9	0	10
45	Hunter Harvey	R-R	6-3	233	12/9/94	**KANSAS CITY**	**1-0**	**0.00**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**10.2**	**6**	**1**	**11**
						NW Arkansas (AA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	0	2.0	2	0	4
						ACL Royals (R)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.0	1	0	1
37	Porter Hodge	R-R	6-4	230	2/21/01	**CHICAGO NL**	**2-2**	**6.27**	**36**	**0**	**2**	**33.0**	**34**	**18**	**40**
						Iowa (AAA)	1-3	6.61	15	0	0	16.1	14	15	26
46	Gavin Hollowell	R-R	6-7	215	11/4/97	**CHICAGO NL**	**0-0**	**4.82**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**9.1**	**9**	**7**	**10**
						Iowa (AAA)	2-4	6.96	30	0	4	32.1	37	21	47
22	Cade Horton	R-R	6-1	211	8/20/01	**CHICAGO NL**	**11-4**	**2.67**	**23**	**22**	**0**	**118.0**	**95**	**33**	**97**
						Iowa (AAA)	2-1	1.24	6	6	0	29.0	12	13	33
18	Shota Imanaga	L-L	5-10	175	9/1/93	**CHICAGO NL**	**9-8**	**3.73**	**25**	**25**	**0**	**144.2**	**117**	**26**	**117**
						Iowa (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	4.1	2	2	8
						ACL Cubs (R)	0-0	0.00	2	2	0	6.0	4	0	8
43	Luke Little	L-L	6-8	220	8/30/00	**CHICAGO NL**	**0-0**	**3.38**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2.2**	**1**	**6**	**4**
						Iowa (AAA)	2-1	2.87	43	2	2	59.2	36	34	75
	Riley Martin	L-L	6-1	215	3/19/98	Iowa (AAA)	6-2	2.69	47	1	4	63.2	41	35	80
88	Phil Maton	R-R	6-2	206	3/25/93	**ST. LOUIS**	**1-3**	**2.35**	**40**	**0**	**2**	**38.1**	**28**	**15**	**48**
						TEXAS	**3-2**	**3.52**	**23**	**0**	**3**	**23.0**	**14**	**8**	**33**
41	Hoby Milner	L-L	6-3	187	1/13/91	**TEXAS**	**3-4**	**3.84**	**73**	**0**	**0**	**70.1**	**68**	**21**	**58**
37	Jack Neely	R-R	6-8	245	6/5/00	Iowa (AAA)	0-2	6.23	28	0	5	30.1	20	27	39
						South Bend (A+)	0-0	3.00	3	0	0	3.0	3	0	4
48	Daniel Palencia	R-R	5-11	160	2/5/00	**CHICAGO NL**	**1-6**	**2.91**	**54**	**0**	**22**	**52.2**	**44**	**16**	**61**
						Iowa (AAA)	0-1	1.93	6	0	1	4.2	6	2	9
53	Colin Rea	R-R	6-5	220	7/1/90	**CHICAGO NL**	**11-7**	**3.95**	**32**	**27**	**1**	**159.1**	**155**	**44**	**127**
39	Ethan Roberts	R-R	5-10	180	7/4/97	**CHICAGO NL**	**1-0**	**6.00**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**9.0**	**10**	**2**	**6**
						Iowa (AAA)	2-4	2.16	36	1	3	41.2	35	20	54
	Ryan Rolison	L-R	6-2	213	7/11/97	**COLORADO**	**1-0**	**7.02**	**31**	**1**	**0**	**42.1**	**55**	**20**	**25**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	3-1	3.34	20	1	1	29.2	33	9	32
35	Justin Steele	L-L	6-2	205	7/11/95	**CHICAGO NL**	**3-1**	**4.76**	**4**	**4**	**0**	**22.2**	**21**	**5**	**21**
50	Jameson Taillon	R-R	6-5	230	11/18/91	**CHICAGO NL**	**11-7**	**3.68**	**23**	**23**	**0**	**129.2**	**110**	**27**	**98**
						Iowa (AAA)	0-1	5.94	4	4	0	16.2	18	3	17
56	Caleb Thielbar	R-L	6-0	205	1/31/87	**CHICAGO NL**	**3-4**	**2.64**	**67**	**0**	**1**	**58.0**	**38**	**13**	**56**
71	Jacob Webb	R-R	6-2	210	8/15/93	**TEXAS**	**5-4**	**3.00**	**55**	**0**	**1**	**66.0**	**49**	**19**	**58**
						Round Rock (AAA)	0-0	2.70	3	0	0	3.1	3	1	4
36	Jordan Wicks	L-L	6-3	220	9/1/99	**CHICAGO NL**	**0-1**	**6.28**	**8**	**0**	**1**	**14.1**	**24**	**1**	**13**
						Iowa (AAA)	3-4	3.55	20	16	2	71.0	66	23	77

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
9	Miguel Amaya	R-R	6-1	230	3/9/99	**CHICAGO NL**	**.281**	**28**	**96**	**14**	**27**	**4**	**25**	**4**	**22**	**0**
						Iowa (AAA)	.195	13	41	2	8	0	5	3	7	0
						ACL Cubs (R)	.200	3	5	1	1	0	0	1	2	0
25	Moisés Ballesteros	L-R	5-8	195	11/8/03	**CHICAGO NL**	**.298**	**20**	**57**	**12**	**17**	**2**	**11**	**9**	**12**	**0**
						Iowa (AAA)	.316	114	446	62	141	13	76	49	67	5
15	Carson Kelly	R-R	6-1	212	7/14/94	**CHICAGO NL**	**.249**	**111**	**369**	**48**	**92**	**17**	**50**	**45**	**80**	**2**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
17	Tyler Austin	R-R	6-2	220	9/6/91	Yokohama (Japan CL)	.269	65	219	35	59	11	28	26	45	0
						Yokohama (Japan EL)	.400	7	20	5	8	1	3	4	3	0
	Alex Bregman	R-R	5-11	190	3/30/94	**BOSTON**	**.273**	**114**	**433**	**64**	**118**	**18**	**62**	**51**	**70**	**1**
29	Michael Busch	L-R	6-0	210	11/9/97	**CHICAGO NL**	**.261**	**155**	**524**	**78**	**137**	**34**	**90**	**56**	**139**	**4**
2	Nico Hoerner	R-R	5-11	200	5/13/97	**CHICAGO NL**	**.297**	**156**	**599**	**89**	**178**	**7**	**61**	**39**	**49**	**29**
	Pedro Ramirez	S-R	5-9	165	4/1/04	Knoxville (AA)	.280	129	500	70	140	8	73	46	85	28
6	Matt Shaw	R-R	5-10	185	11/6/01	**CHICAGO NL**	**.226**	**126**	**393**	**57**	**89**	**13**	**44**	**38**	**94**	**17**
						Iowa (AAA)	.286	24	91	22	26	6	14	17	11	5
7	Dansby Swanson	R-R	6-0	190	2/11/94	**CHICAGO NL**	**.244**	**159**	**590**	**84**	**144**	**24**	**77**	**47**	**168**	**20**
	James Triantos	R-R	5-11	195	1/29/03	Iowa (AAA)	.258	102	407	65	105	7	43	31	67	28
						South Bend (A+)	.273	8	33	4	9	0	4	2	5	3

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
13	Kevin Alcántara	R-R	6-6	188	7/12/02	**CHICAGO NL**	**.364**	**10**	**11**	**2**	**4**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**1**
						Iowa (AAA)	.266	102	379	55	101	17	69	48	128	10
4	Pete Crow-Armstrong	L-L	6-0	184	3/25/02	**CHICAGO NL**	**.247**	**157**	**591**	**91**	**146**	**31**	**95**	**29**	**155**	**35**
8	Ian Happ	S-R	5-11	205	8/12/94	**CHICAGO NL**	**.243**	**150**	**569**	**87**	**138**	**23**	**79**	**87**	**151**	**6**
27	Seiya Suzuki	R-R	6-0	182	8/18/94	**CHICAGO NL**	**.245**	**151**	**571**	**75**	**140**	**32**	**103**	**71**	**164**	**5**

Cincinnati REDS

2026 PREDICTION
3RD
NL CENTRAL
2025 FINISH: 3RD (83-79)

Last year, the Reds punched their ticket to the playoffs for the first time in a dozen seasons (excluding 2020). That made Terry Francona's initial year at the helm of the club a success. To build on that, though, requires shoring up weaknesses, and the Reds had, as of press time, another quiet, budget-constrained offseason.

ROTATION

With a 3.85 ERA (sixth in the NL), 3.94 FIP (fifth) and 1.17 WHIP (second), starting pitchers were the team's strength. Hunter Greene, Andrew Abbott, Brady Singer and Nick Lodolo provide a formidable R-L-R-L top four. All are in their 20s. Health is a concern: Greene and Lodolo missed time with injuries, Abbott started the season on the injured list and Singer's the only one of the quartet who's started 30 games in a season. But the supporting cast is deep. Chase Burns had an injury-shortened rookie season but is only 23. Chase Petty, 22, had a rough 2025 (6.39 ERA at Triple-A Louisville, 19.50 ERA in three games for Cincinnati) but remains a top prospect. Rhett Lowder had a promising debut with the Reds in 2024 (1.17 ERA in six starts) and is back after missing almost the entire 2025 season with injuries. Julian Aguiar and Brandon Williamson return from 2024 Tommy John surgeries. The Reds have depth, but they'll need health from their top four to avoid having to lean on it too much.

BULLPEN

The bullpen was sometimes a high-wire act in Francona's first season. Saves rose from 36 to 41, but blown saves rose from 15 to 22, and the relievers walked 10.4% of the batters they faced, fourth-most in the majors. Closer Emilio Pagán, who inked a two-year deal in December, and setup man Tony Santillan (2.44 ERA, seven saves, second in the NL with 33 holds) return. Durability is a concern with Santillan: He was second in the league with 80 relief appearances in 2025, but that was one more MLB appearance than he'd put together in the prior four seasons combined. Caleb Ferguson, signed in December, will be the primary lefty out of the pen. Behind them, Graham Ashcraft, who had a 2.72 FIP across 62 appearances, and Connor Phillips, who posted a 1.80 ERA over the season's final two months, are positioned for leverage duties. Sam Moll had a forgettable 2025 season, but he and Ferguson are the only southpaws in the group. Hard-throwing Luis Mey, Zach Maxwell and Yosver Zulueta, and any starter candidate who doesn't make the rotation, will compete for the remaining bullpen spots. Francona leans on his bullpen a lot (3.4 relievers per game, tied with Seattle for the sixth-most in the majors last year), and he needs relievers who can more reliably miss bats, preferably in the strike zone.

MIDDLE INFIELD

Elly De La Cruz had a down year in 2025. The team disclosed after the season that the Reds' biggest star suffered a strained quadriceps at the end of July that

ELLY DE LA CRUZ

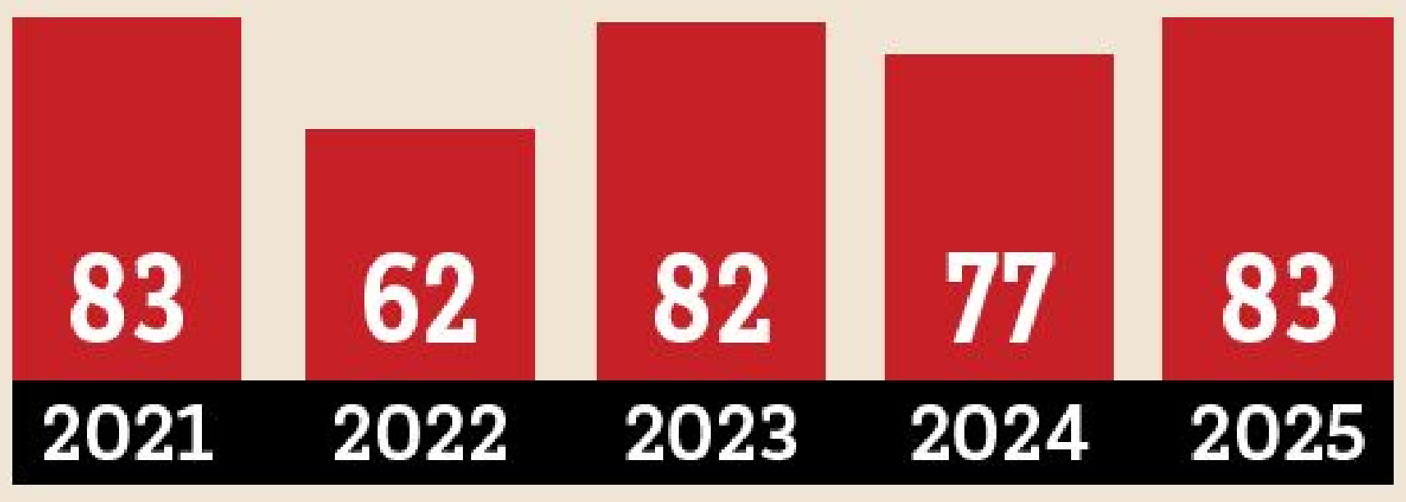
KATIE STRATMAN-IMAGN IMAGES

Great American Ball Park

Opened: 2003 • Capacity: 43,500
Left: 328′ Center: 404′ Right: 325′
Tickets: 877-647-7337
mlb.com/REDS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



◆

Statline

Highest infield fly ball rate among NL pitchers, minimum 100 IP

1. Eduardo Rodriguez, D-backs	15.2%
2. Andrew Abbott, Reds	**14.8%**
3. Freddy Peralta, Brewers	14.4%
4. Hunter Greene, Reds	**14.3%**
5. Jameson Taillon, Cubs	14.2%

limited him for the rest of the year. A return to form is a reasonable expectation. There are greater worries at second, where Matt McLain, fifth in the 2023 NL Rookie of the Year vote, had a poor year back from a season-long shoulder injury in 2024, batting only .220/.300/343. The 2021 first-round pick could be in jeopardy of losing playing time. Top prospect Sal Stewart, who had an impressive September callup (.255/.293/.545), has experience at second base. Gavin Lux was the Dodgers' primary keystoner in 2022 and '24, but the Reds prefer him in left or DH. Tyler Callihan, who got a cup of coffee with the club early in the season and had a .938 OPS in Louisville, has been primarily a second baseman in the minors. Prospects Edwin Arroyo and Leo Balcazar are on the Reds' 40-man roster, though neither has played above Double-A, and both have been primarily shortstops. With De La Cruz entrenched at short, a position move may be in the cards for either.

HUNTER GREENE

SAM GREENE/THE ENQUIRER

CORNERS

The Reds traded for Ke'Bryan Hayes, a superlative fielder signed through 2029. He's a fixture at third despite a career batting line of .253/.308/.367. That's the position Stewart played the most in the minors, so when he was called up, he took playing time from Spencer Steer at first. Steer inherited the position after Christian Encarnacion-Strand's second straight season of making his 2023 breakout (.805 OPS) look like a fluke (.564 since). Steer's a useful player and a fine fielder but doesn't provide the offense you'd want from first base, so this could be Stewart's landing spot.

OUTFIELD

TJ Friedl, finally healthy for a full year, provided an excellent .364 OBP out of the leadoff spot; he was tied for 18th in the majors with 81 walks. Noelvi Marte — in his fourth year with the club and still only 24 — seems to have found a home in right field, and his .748 OPS last year ranks third among returning Reds behind Stewart and De La Cruz. They're settled, but left field is less so. Free-agent signee JJ Bleday had an .801 OPS after a midseason demotion to Triple-A. He looks to be the long side of a platoon with Steer. Lux could see time in left as well, though he probably shouldn't. Strong-armed Dane Myers, acquired in a trade with Miami, and strong-swinging Will Benson (.209 isolated slugging, best on the team, though with too many strikeouts) back up all three positions.

PROJECTED LINEUP

▪ LINEUP

CF	TJ Friedl (L)
RF	Noelvi Marte (R)
SS	Elly De La Cruz (S)
DH	Sal Stewart (R)
LF	JJ Bleday (L)
1B	Spencer Steer (R)
C	Tyler Stephenson (R)
3B	Ke'Bryan Hayes (R)
2B	Matt McLain (R)

▪ BENCH

C	Jose Trevino (R)
INF	Tyler Callihan (L)
OF	Dane Myers (R)
UTIL	Gavin Lux (L)

▪ ROTATION

RHP	Hunter Greene
LHP	Andrew Abbott
RHP	Brady Singer
LHP	Nick Lodolo
RHP	Chase Burns

▪ BULLPEN

RHP	Emilio Pagán (C)
RHP	Tony Santillan
LHP	Caleb Ferguson
RHP	Graham Ashcraft
RHP	Connor Phillips
LHP	Sam Moll
RHP	Zach Maxwell
RHP	Luis Mey

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE REDS "Terry Francona made such a big difference here. Instead of just being this ragtag outfit, they're a baseball team now. They don't go up there swinging for the fences all the time. They've got the talent to be a little over .500, and that's probably where they'll be again. The pitching could get them a little higher, if Hunter Greene, Nick Lodolo and Andrew Abbott all take steps forward together; they're already really good, and young enough to possibly get even better. Brady Singer is exactly what he was supposed to be: the mid-rotation stabilizer they needed. Bringing back Emilio Pagán was big; I've always loved his stuff, and I trust him at the back end. Elly De La Cruz is so talented and he always posts, but the strikeouts make him a limited superstar. It's time for Spencer Steer and Matt McLain to show who they really are. They're talented guys, but the trend line is going in the wrong direction."

CATCHING

Tyler Stephenson, who avoided the injured list in 2024, wasn't so lucky in 2025, missing 36 days with an oblique strain and 19 with a broken thumb. When in the lineup, he provides good offense for a catcher (.737 OPS in 2025) and below-average defense, particularly his pitch framing. Jose Trevino caught the most games for the club and was Stephenson's mirror image: strong framing but only a .623 OPS, 20th-lowest among players with at least 300 plate appearances. With the introduction of ABS, the Reds are a stronger club with Stephenson as the primary catcher and Trevino as the backup.

DH/BENCH

Francona penciled in 16 different DHs in 2025. Lux and Stewart are the most likely candidates for the role. Of that duo, Steer, Bleday, Myers and Benson, only three can play first, left and DH, so two will be on the bench and one in the minors if everyone's healthy. Trevino is a fine backup catcher. Callihan seems the likely infield backup.

MANAGEMENT

Taking the Reds back to the postseason was another feather in the cap for Francona, a future Hall of Fame manager. The responsibility for a deeper fall run falls to president of baseball operations Nick Krall and owner Bob Castellini. Krall announced after the World Series that the team's payroll, which ranked 23rd in the majors at the end of last year, wouldn't grow in 2026. That will make the necessary work of upgrades to the offense and bullpen a challenge.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Reds are a young team, and Baseball America ranked their farm system 10th in the majors at last year's midseason. A path to a deeper playoff run is certainly visible. To get there, the Reds need not only to avoid the injuries that torpedoed their chances in prior years but also to improve weaknesses, particularly on offense. That will require an investment in payroll that ownership seems unwilling to make. As often happened to Francona in Cleveland, a great manager may be limited by his bosses' unwillingness to give him the tools he needs to succeed.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

GETTING IT DONE The morning of Aug. 4, the Reds were 58-54, nine and a half games behind the Brewers in the National League Central and four behind the San Diego Padres for the final wild-card spot. They caught fire after that, roaring into the playoffs with a … 25-25 record. (The Mets' 20-30 faceplant earned Cincinnati a wild-card berth.) The first full-season playoff appearance since 2013 was nice, but it wasn't an emphatic re-entry.

DROUGHT CONTINUES While the Reds were wild-card qualifiers in 2013, '20 and '25, they were swept in all three series, with every game contested on the road. The Reds' last postseason home game was Oct. 10, 2012, when they fell to the eventual World Series champion Giants 8-3. The last time Reds faithful saw the team win a postseason game at home was in the 1995 National League Division Series. The club has yet to win a postseason game at Great American Ball Park.

ROSE HOPE BLOOMS In May, commissioner Rob Manfred declared that deceased players are automatically removed from MLB's permanently ineligible list. Players on the list cannot be named to the Hall of Fame. The ruling opens the door for Pete Rose, on the ineligible list for gambling, to gain entry via one of the Hall's special committees. However, the Hall determines the composition of the committees and has not been reluctant to put its thumb on the scale for or against players. The Hit King's future enshrinement is by no means a certainty, especially with baseball's recent gambling-related controversies.

Schedule

🟥 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	🟥 26 BOS	27	🟥 28 BOS
🟥 29 BOS	🟥 30 PIT	🟥 31 PIT	🟥 1 PIT	2	▨ 3 TEX	▨ 4 TEX
▨ 5 TEX	▨ 6 MIA	▨ 7 MIA	▨ 8 MIA	▨ 9 MIA	🟥 10 LAA	🟥 11 LAA
🟥 12 LAA	13	🟥 14 SF	🟥 15 SF	🟥 16 SF	▨ 17 MIN	▨ 18 MIN
▨ 19 MIN	▨ 20 TB	▨ 21 TB	▨ 22 TB	23	🟥 24 DET	🟥 25 DET
🟥 26 DET	27	🟥 28 COL	🟥 29 COL	🟥 30 COL		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					▨ 1 PIT	▨ 2 PIT
▨ 3 PIT	▨ 4 CHC	▨ 5 CHC	▨ 6 CHC	▨ 7 CHC	🟥 8 HOU	🟥 9 HOU
🟥 10 HOU	11	🟥 12 WAS	🟥 13 WAS	🟥 14 WAS	▨ 15 CLE	▨ 16 CLE
▨ 17 CLE	▨ 18 PHI	▨ 19 PHI	▨ 20 PHI	21	🟥 22 STL	🟥 23 STL
🟥 24 STL	▨ 25 NYM	▨ 26 NYM	▨ 27 NYM	28	🟥 29 ATL	🟥 30 ATL
🟥 31 ATL						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	🟥 1 KC	🟥 2 KC	🟥 3 KC	4	▨ 5 STL	▨ 6 STL
▨ 7 STL	▨ 8 SD	▨ 9 SD	▨ 10 SD	11	🟥 12 ARI	🟥 13 ARI
🟥 14 ARI	🟥 15 NYM	🟥 16 NYM	🟥 17 NYM	18	▨ 19 NYY	▨ 20 NYY
▨ 21 NYY	🟥 22 MIL	🟥 23 MIL	🟥 24 MIL	25	▨ 26 PIT	▨ 27 PIT
▨ 28 PIT	▨ 29 MIL	▨ 30 MIL				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			▨ 1 MIL	▨ 2 MIL	🟥 3 BAL	🟥 4 BAL
🟥 5 BAL	6	🟥 7 PHI	🟥 8 PHI	🟥 9 PHI	🟥 10 CHC	🟥 11 CHC
🟥 12 CHC	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	▨ 17 COL	▨ 18 COL
▨ 19 COL	▨ 20 SEA	▨ 21 SEA	▨ 22 SEA	23	▨ 24 STL	▨ 25 STL
▨ 26 STL	🟥 27 CLE	🟥 28 CLE	🟥 29 CLE	🟥 30 PIT	🟥 31 PIT	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						🟥 1 PIT
🟥 2 PIT	3	🟥 4 A's	🟥 5 A's	🟥 6 A's	▨ 7 WAS	▨ 8 WAS
▨ 9 WAS	10	▨ 11 CWS	▨ 12 CWS	▨ 13 CWS	🟥 14 MIA	🟥 15 MIA
🟥 16 MIA	🟥 17 STL	🟥 18 STL	🟥 19 STL	🟥 20 STL	▨ 21 ARI	▨ 22 ARI
▨ 23 ARI	▨ 24 SF	▨ 25 SF	▨ 26 SF	27	▨ 28 CHC	▨ 29 CHC
▨ 30 CHC	🟥 31 SD					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		🟥 1 SD	🟥 2 SD	3	🟥 4 MIL	🟥 5 MIL
🟥 6 MIL	▨ 7 LAD	▨ 8 LAD	▨ 9 LAD	10	▨ 11 MIL	▨ 12 MIL
▨ 13 MIL	🟥 14 LAD	🟥 15 LAD	🟥 16 LAD	🟥 17 LAD	🟥 18 CHC	🟥 19 CHC
🟥 20 CHC	21	▨ 22 ATL	▨ 23 ATL	▨ 24 ATL	▨ 25 TOR	▨ 26 TOR
▨ 27 TOR	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

128 The number of times a Reds reliever appeared on zero days' rest in 2025, the most in the majors.

◆

5-60 The Reds' win-loss record when trailing after six innings, the second-worst in the league, trailing only the Pirates' 5-65.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

MARK HOFFMAN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

1. Sal Stewart, 1B/3B (22) Impressed in 18 September games for Cincinnati, belting five homers and slugging .545.

2. Rhett Lowder, RHP (24) Injury-filled 2025 but had 1.17 ERA in six MLB starts in 2024.

3. Alfredo Duno, C (20) Posted .430 OBP and 18 homers in Single-A as a teenager in 2025.

4. Chase Petty, RHP (22) Has plus stuff that he simply needs to control.

5. Héctor Rodríguez, OF (22) Showed a bit of power with 19 homers in 135 games at Double- and Triple-A in 2025.

6. Steele Hall, SS (18) Top 2025 pick has great speed, good hands and a strong arm.

7. Cam Collier, 1B/3B (21) Enticing power potential; limited by a thumb injury in 2025.

8. Tyson Lewis, SS (20) Had a .311/.376/.486 line with 27 SB in first pro season.

9. Zach Maxwell, RHP (25) Relief specialist with a blazing fastball struck out 27% of batters he faced at Triple-A.

10. Edwin Arroyo, SS (22) Contact hitter and athletic fielder who could play multiple positions.

Reds Roster

President of Baseball Operations: Nick Krall • **Manager:** Terry Francona • ≠: Kyle Arnsberg (coordinator of advance scouting), Freddie Benavides (bench/field coordinator), Collin Cowgill (first base), Willie Harris (third base), Bill Haselman (catching), Derek Johnson (pitching), Oscar Marin (bullpen), Mike Napoli (asst. bench), Alex Pelaez (asst. hitting), Will Remillard (asst. hitting), Matt Tracy (asst. pitching), Chris Valaika (hitting)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
41	Andrew Abbott	L-L	6-0	192	6/1/99	**CINCINNATI**	**10-7**	**2.87**	**29**	**29**	**0**	**166.1**	**148**	**43**	**149**
						Louisville (AAA)	0-0	3.60	2	2	0	10.0	10	5	8
39	Julian Aguiar	L-R	6-3	180	6/4/01	Injured — Missed Season									
23	Graham Ashcraft	L-R	6-2	248	2/11/98	**CINCINNATI**	**8-5**	**3.99**	**62**	**0**	**0**	**65.1**	**68**	**25**	**64**
26	Chase Burns	R-R	6-3	210	1/16/03	**CINCINNATI**	**0-3**	**4.57**	**13**	**8**	**0**	**43.1**	**41**	**16**	**67**
						Louisville (AAA)	1-0	2.19	2	2	0	12.1	7	4	14
						Chattanooga (AA)	6-1	1.29	8	8	0	42.0	26	4	55
						Dayton (A+)	0-2	3.09	3	3	0	11.2	5	5	20
46	Caleb Ferguson	R-L	6-3	225	7/2/96	**PITTSBURGH**	**2-2**	**3.74**	**45**	**0**	**0**	**43.1**	**33**	**14**	**34**
						SEATTLE	**3-2**	**3.27**	**25**	**0**	**0**	**22.0**	**21**	**8**	**17**
74	Jose Franco	R-R	6-2	257	11/25/00	Louisville (AAA)	3-2	3.51	17	14	0	51.1	43	28	52
						Chattanooga (AA)	7-2	2.76	14	12	0	58.2	42	26	66
21	Hunter Greene	R-R	6-5	242	8/6/99	**CINCINNATI**	**7-4**	**2.76**	**19**	**19**	**0**	**107.2**	**75**	**26**	**132**
						Louisville (AAA)	0-2	7.36	3	3	0	11.0	10	4	20
						ACL Reds (R)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	2.0	0	1	4
40	Nick Lodolo	L-L	6-6	216	2/5/98	**CINCINNATI**	**9-8**	**3.33**	**29**	**28**	**0**	**156.2**	**138**	**31**	**156**
25	Rhett Lowder	R-R	6-2	200	3/8/02	Louisville (AAA)	0-1	13.50	3	3	0	3.1	6	2	3
						Dayton (A+)	0-1	12.00	1	1	0	3.0	5	1	5
						ACL Reds (R)	0-1	6.00	1	1	0	3.0	4	0	5
78	Zach Maxwell	R-R	6-6	275	1/26/01	**CINCINNATI**	**0-0**	**4.50**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**10.0**	**10**	**4**	**13**
						Louisville (AAA)	1-3	4.17	51	0	5	49.2	42	32	59
47	Luis Mey	R-R	6-5	235	6/24/01	**CINCINNATI**	**2-0**	**3.43**	**23**	**0**	**0**	**21.0**	**17**	**17**	**21**
						Louisville (AAA)	5-3	2.48	40	0	11	40.0	27	21	46
50	Sam Moll	L-L	5-9	190	1/3/92	**CINCINNATI**	**1-0**	**6.38**	**23**	**0**	**0**	**18.1**	**16**	**10**	**22**
						Louisville (AAA)	0-3	5.00	28	0	0	27.0	26	11	27
15	Emilio Pagán	L-R	6-2	208	5/7/91	**CINCINNATI**	**2-4**	**2.88**	**70**	**0**	**32**	**68.2**	**41**	**22**	**81**
61	Chase Petty	R-R	6-1	190	4/4/03	**CINCINNATI**	**0-3**	**19.50**	**3**	**2**	**0**	**6.0**	**14**	**8**	**7**
						Louisville (AAA)	6-13	6.39	26	26	0	112.2	123	58	102
34	Connor Phillips	R-R	6-2	209	5/4/01	**CINCINNATI**	**5-0**	**2.88**	**21**	**0**	**0**	**25.0**	**11**	**12**	**32**
						Louisville (AAA)	1-2	2.88	31	0	0	34.1	18	21	36
						Dayton (A+)	0-0	2.45	3	0	0	3.2	3	2	6
72	Lyon Richardson	S-R	6-2	207	1/18/00	**CINCINNATI**	**0-3**	**4.54**	**34**	**0**	**0**	**37.2**	**37**	**21**	**30**
						Louisville (AAA)	5-0	4.22	22	0	0	32.0	31	13	32
64	Tony Santillan	R-R	6-3	285	4/15/97	**CINCINNATI**	**1-5**	**2.44**	**80**	**0**	**7**	**73.2**	**53**	**29**	**75**
51	Brady Singer	R-R	6-5	215	8/4/96	**CINCINNATI**	**14-12**	**4.03**	**32**	**32**	**0**	**169.2**	**150**	**60**	**163**
65	Brandon Williamson	R-L	6-6	210	4/2/98	Injured — Missed Season									
67	Yosver Zulueta	R-R	6-1	190	1/23/98	**CINCINNATI**	**1-0**	**6.14**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**7.1**	**5**	**4**	**5**
						Louisville (AAA)	2-2	3.28	44	0	0	60.1	37	32	78

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
38	Ben Rortvedt	L-R	5-9	210	9/25/97	**TAMPA BAY**	**.095**	**26**	**63**	**2**	**6**	**0**	**6**	**7**	**14**	**0**
						Durham (AAA)	.183	19	60	9	11	1	5	11	27	0
						LOS ANGELES NL	.224	18	49	7	11	1	4	4	9	0
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	.228	17	57	7	13	2	6	3	16	0
37	Tyler Stephenson	R-R	6-3	225	8/16/96	**CINCINNATI**	**.231**	**88**	**299**	**40**	**69**	**13**	**50**	**37**	**116**	**0**
						Louisville (AAA)	.152	10	33	6	5	2	4	6	9	0
35	Jose Trevino	R-R	5-9	215	11/28/92	**CINCINNATI**	**.238**	**94**	**282**	**30**	**67**	**4**	**22**	**15**	**39**	**0**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
56	Edwin Arroyo	S-R	5-11	173	8/25/03	Chattanooga (AA)	.284	120	464	63	132	3	44	40	88	12
85	Leo Balcazar	R-R	5-11	190	6/17/04	Chattanooga (AA)	.263	51	186	29	49	3	20	23	24	4
						Dayton (A+)	.262	75	305	40	80	9	37	29	51	4
44	Elly De La Cruz	S-R	6-5	200	1/11/02	**CINCINNATI**	**.264**	**162**	**629**	**102**	**166**	**22**	**86**	**67**	**181**	**37**
33	C. Encarnacion-Strand	R-R	6-0	224	12/1/99	**CINCINNATI**	**.208**	**36**	**130**	**13**	**27**	**6**	**19**	**3**	**32**	**0**
						Louisville (AAA)	.245	62	229	33	56	11	37	17	62	0
						ACL Reds (R)	.286	2	7	1	2	0	2	0	3	0
3	Ke'Bryan Hayes	R-R	5-11	215	1/28/97	**CINCINNATI**	**.234**	**52**	**158**	**16**	**37**	**3**	**13**	**18**	**30**	**2**
						PITTSBURGH	**.236**	**100**	**369**	**34**	**87**	**2**	**36**	**18**	**81**	**10**
9	Matt McLain	R-R	5-9	180	8/6/99	**CINCINNATI**	**.220**	**147**	**510**	**73**	**112**	**15**	**50**	**55**	**167**	**18**
7	Spencer Steer	R-R	5-9	185	12/7/97	**CINCINNATI**	**.238**	**146**	**509**	**66**	**121**	**21**	**75**	**51**	**129**	**7**
27	Sal Stewart	R-R	6-1	224	12/7/03	**CINCINNATI**	**.255**	**18**	**55**	**11**	**14**	**5**	**8**	**3**	**15**	**0**
						Louisville (AAA)	.315	38	143	27	45	10	36	19	26	4
						Chattanooga (AA)	.306	80	294	51	90	10	44	27	51	13

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
30	Will Benson	L-L	6-4	230	6/16/98	**CINCINNATI**	**.226**	**90**	**230**	**31**	**52**	**12**	**41**	**16**	**67**	**2**
						Louisville (AAA)	.275	41	153	32	42	7	33	22	49	6
	JJ Bleday	L-L	6-2	205	11/10/97	**ATHLETICS**	**.212**	**98**	**307**	**48**	**65**	**14**	**39**	**36**	**91**	**1**
						Las Vegas (AAA)	.353	28	119	23	42	6	23	12	25	3
32	Tyler Callihan	L-R	5-11	205	6/22/00	**CINCINNATI**	**.167**	**4**	**6**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**
						Louisville (AAA)	.303	24	89	19	27	4	12	16	29	6
59	Blake Dunn	R-R	5-10	210	9/5/98	**CINCINNATI**	**.150**	**30**	**60**	**10**	**9**	**1**	**7**	**8**	**25**	**1**
						Louisville (AAA)	.291	98	354	59	103	7	40	54	102	24
29	TJ Friedl	L-L	5-8	180	8/14/95	**CINCINNATI**	**.261**	**152**	**579**	**82**	**151**	**14**	**53**	**81**	**115**	**12**
57	Rece Hinds	R-R	6-3	215	9/5/00	**CINCINNATI**	**.116**	**15**	**43**	**6**	**5**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**21**	**0**
						Louisville (AAA)	.302	107	391	79	118	24	83	33	113	21
2	Gavin Lux	L-R	5-11	190	11/23/97	**CINCINNATI**	**.269**	**140**	**446**	**49**	**120**	**5**	**53**	**56**	**114**	**1**
4	Noelvi Marte	R-R	6-2	216	10/16/01	**CINCINNATI**	**.263**	**90**	**339**	**45**	**89**	**14**	**51**	**16**	**85**	**10**
						Louisville (AAA)	.326	12	43	8	14	1	10	8	7	3
						Chattanooga (AA)	.267	4	15	3	4	0	3	1	1	0
						ACL Reds (R)	.400	3	10	1	4	1	3	1	0	0
	Dane Myers	R-R	6-0	205	3/8/96	**MIAMI**	**.235**	**106**	**307**	**29**	**72**	**6**	**31**	**23**	**77**	**18**
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.167	4	12	3	2	0	1	3	4	0
43	Héctor Rodríguez	L-R	5-10	200	3/11/04	Louisville (AAA)	.260	53	215	34	56	7	20	12	38	9
						Chattanooga (AA)	.298	82	312	58	93	12	45	28	48	6

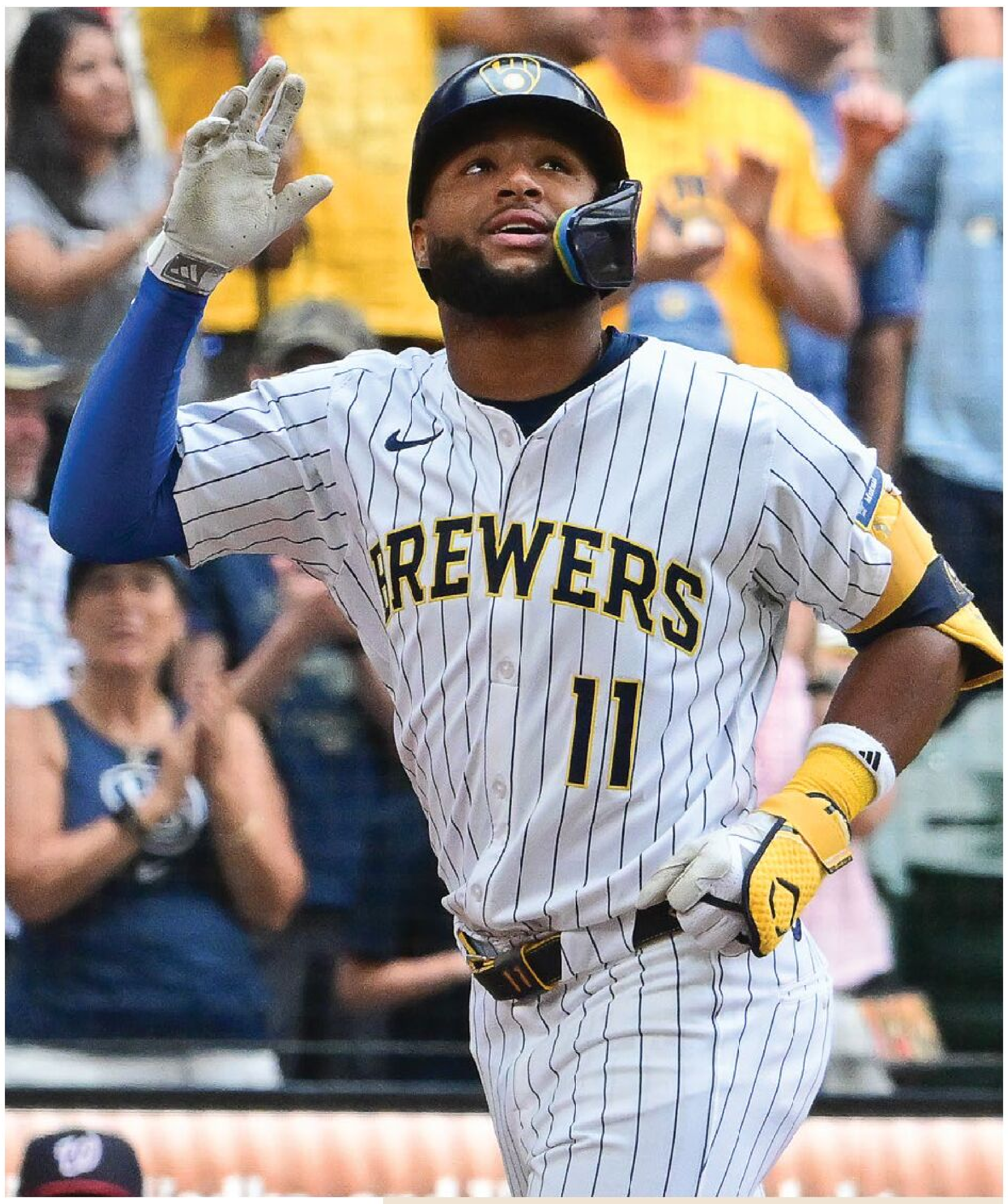
Milwaukee BREWERS

2026 PREDICTION
1ST
NL CENTRAL
2025 FINISH: 1ST (97-65)

There are many inherent disadvantages to being the smallest-market team in Major League Baseball. But the Brewers don't waste time worrying about that. And why should they, considering all the success they've had in recent years? A third straight Central Division title, major-league-leading 97 victories and a berth in the National League Championship Series were the highlights of a 2025 season that began with modest external expectations.

"It's not our job to think about what the economics of the sport are. That's above all of us," says president of baseball operations Matt Arnold. "In our situation it's, 'What are we going to do about it?' That's really where I come at it from."

With almost every key player returning from the 2025 team, and a few sneaky depth additions at positions of need, there's every reason to believe the Brewers will again be able to compete with the game's big spenders — and perhaps this time reach the World Series for just the second time in franchise history.



JACKSON CHOURIO

BENNY SIEU-IMAGN IMAGES

ROTATION

With the Brewers choosing to keep Freddy Peralta for the final year of his contract and Brandon Woodruff opting to accept a $22.025 million qualifying offer, this figures to once again be one of Milwaukee's strengths, as the two righthanders offer loads of talent, experience and leadership. Beyond them is a wealth of young talent led by righthanders Quinn Priester (13-3, 3.32 ERA in 29 appearances in 2025), who was acquired from Boston in an early-season trade and far surpassed expectations, and Jacob Misiorowski, who took the major leagues by storm and was named an All-Star after making just five starts. "The Miz" throws a fastball that hits 104 mph and displayed tremendous mental fortitude with a truly electric series of appearances out of the bullpen in the playoffs after being removed from Milwaukee's rotation late in the regular season. Two more young righties, Chad Patrick and Logan Henderson, will also factor in here, as will lefthander Robert Gasser.

BULLPEN

Year after year, Milwaukee boasts a strong bullpen, and this year should be no different, with closer Trevor Megill coming off his first All-Star nod and setup man Abner Uribe waiting in the wings. Both are extremely hard throwers with personalities to match. There will also be a wealth of high-octane lefties with Aaron Ashby, Angel Zerpa, Jared Koenig and DL Hall — all of whom can pitch in high-leverage situations as well as provide length. In the cases of Ashby and Zerpa, one or both could also be considered as options for the rotation if needed.

MIDDLE INFIELD

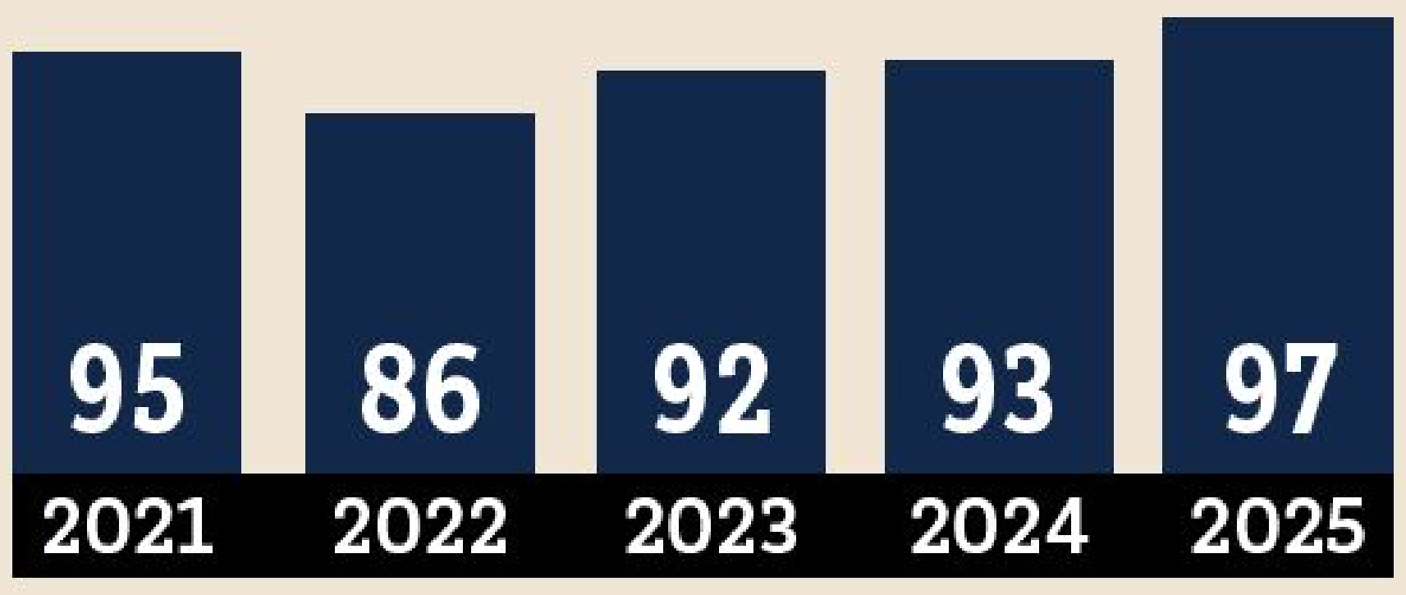
Brice Turang has always had the glove at second base, and now he has a bat to match. He became a true middle-of-the-order presence in 2025 with a .288 average, 18 homers, 81 RBIs and .794 OPS. Having just turned 26, Milwaukee's 2018 first-round pick appears poised for his first All-Star appearance — and

American Family Field

Opened: 2001 • Capacity: 41,900
Left: 342' Center: 400' Right: 337'
Tickets: 414-902-4000
mlb.com/BREWERS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

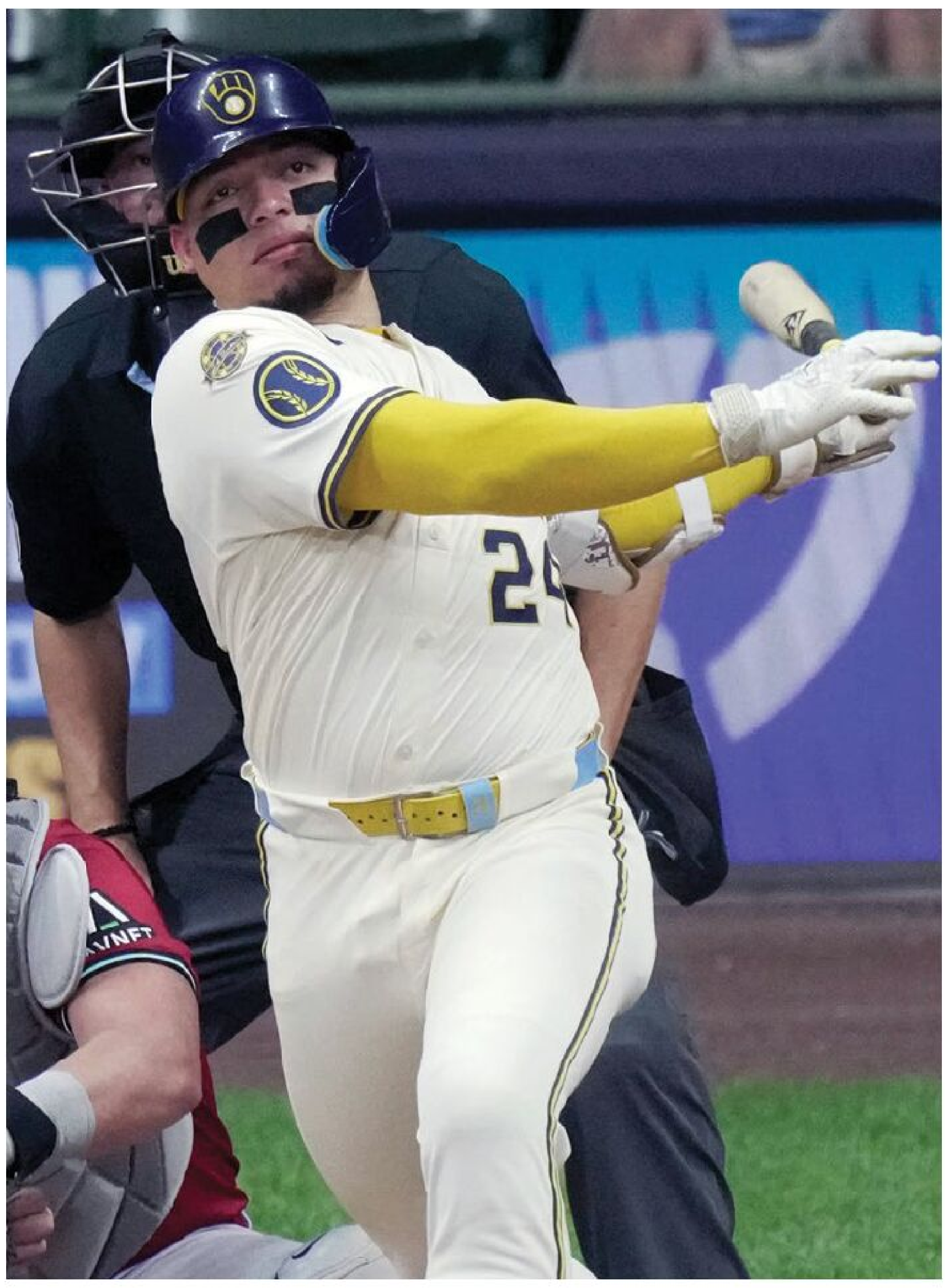
Runs above average on curveballs as a team, 2025

1. Brewers	**14.9**
2. Rangers	7.9
3. Mets	7.7
4. Athletics	4.5
5. Blue Jays	4.4

maybe more. Shortstop is a different story. Joey Ortiz showed plenty of glove in his first season as the starter in 2025, but his .593 OPS ranked dead last among qualified players. With several highly touted prospects waiting in the wings, Ortiz needs to rediscover his offense.

CORNERS

First base is locked down for now by one of the Brewers' 2025 revelations, Andrew Vaughn. The third overall pick in 2019 had been discarded by the Chicago White Sox before coming to Milwaukee in a trade for righthander Aaron Civale. In 64 games with his new club, he was dubbed "King Vaughn" after hitting .308 with nine homers, 46 RBIs and an .869 OPS over 64 games — a performance worth 1.9 Wins Above Replacement. Vaughn then went on to slug a couple of massive homers to help the Brewers beat the Cubs in the NLDS. At third base, Caleb Durbin figures to enter the season as the starter after a breakout rookie season that saw him hit .256 with 11 homers and 53 RBIs. He also stole 18 bases and was hit by an NL-leading 24 pitches. Defensively, Durbin might have been an even bigger surprise, as he accounted for five defensive runs saved after having played primarily second base in the minors.


WILLIAM CONTRERAS

MARK HOFFMAN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

OUTFIELD

In 2025, left fielder Jackson Chourio basically matched what he did in his breakout rookie season with another 20-homer, 20-stolen base effort — despite a badly strained hamstring that cost him a month down the stretch — while also getting his first taste of center field at the major-league level. Chourio needs to display better ball-strike discernment at the plate to take the next step. Sal Frelick remains a fixture in right — a Gold Glove-caliber defender whose offensive game took a major step forward in 2025 with career-highs across the board (.288 average, 12 homers, 63 RBIs, .756 OPS). The 2021 first-round draft pick goes 100% all the time, making him a fan favorite but also leaving him susceptible to injury at times. Garrett Mitchell, the team's 2020 first-round pick, remains the X-factor. He has all the physical tools to be a difference-maker in center but has not been able to remain healthy. He underwent the second major shoulder surgery of his young career in 2025, and it wouldn't be a stretch to say 2026 will be a make-or-break year for the 27-year-old. There is also depth here, with Blake Perkins, Brandon Lockridge and newly signed Akil Baddoo.

CATCHING

William Contreras gutted through nearly all of last season with a fractured left middle finger that particularly affected his ability to swing the bat. He still

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

RF	Sal Frelick (L)
LF	Jackson Chourio (R)
DH	Christian Yelich (L)
C	William Contreras (R)
2B	Brice Turang (L)
1B	Andrew Vaughn (R)
CF	Garrett Mitchell (L)
3B	Caleb Durbin (R)
SS	Joey Ortiz (R)

■ BENCH

C	Jeferson Quero (R)
1B/OF	Jake Bauers (L)
OF	Blake Perkins (S)
UTIL	Andruw Monasterio (R)

■ ROTATION

RHP	Freddy Peralta
RHP	Brandon Woodruff
RHP	Quinn Priester
RHP	Jacob Misiorowski
RHP	Chad Patrick

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Trevor Megill (C)
RHP	Abner Uribe
LHP	Aaron Ashby
LHP	Angel Zerpa
LHP	Jared Koenig
LHP	DL Hall
RHP	Grant Anderson
RHP	Craig Yoho

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE BREWERS "They just coach better than everyone else. They see what they've got and get the most out of every player by emphasizing his strengths. They do have some legitimate middle-of-the-order All-Star types, like Christian Yelich, Jackson Chourio and William Contreras. But mostly it's these little slap hitters who'll run into one occasionally but drive you nuts all the time. It's like: walk, base hit, walk, base hit, and now your pitcher is so pissed, like, 'We cannot get out of this inning!' and he'll make a mistake. Just avoid outs, that's all they're trying to do. Some of their pitchers have high-end stuff like Freddy Peralta, Brandon Woodruff and Jacob Misiorowski, but they're best at getting guys like Quinn Priester and just telling him to follow whatever Contreras puts down. Priester's always had the stuff, but he's a guy that would get into his own head and overthink everything. Now he just does his thing and trusts it. They also catch the ball, which also helps their pitchers work confidently in the zone."

managed to hit .260 with 17 homers, 76 RBIs and a .754 OPS in 150 games. Contreras had surgery in the offseason to repair the finger and is expected to be back to 100%, meaning he should again be among the small group of the game's elite backstops. The expectation is that he'll be backed up by prospect Jeferson Quero, who will be making his major-league debut.

DH/BENCH

In his age-33 season, Christian Yelich experienced a rebirth in 2025. Coming off major back surgery, he hit .264 with 29 homers and 103 RBIs while compiling a .795 OPS with 16 stolen bases over 150 games. Of those 150 games, 130 came as Milwaukee's DH — a role he figures to fill again in 2026. Jake Bauers returns for a third season with Milwaukee, and with his left-handed power bat, ability to play first base and the corner outfield spots and enough speed to steal a base when needed, he is a reliable contributor. Perkins provides highlight-reel defense in center field and can switch-hit. Andruw Monasterio isn't flashy but is reliable and able to play across the infield as well as in left field in a pinch.

MANAGEMENT

Arnold presides over a front office that every season seems to hit on several reclamation projects — most often pitchers — and is never afraid to think outside the box. It's a necessity for the franchise because the revenues are never going to be there to enable Arnold & Co. to make big forays into free agency. The recipe remains the same: Draft well, then integrate those players into the mix when it comes time to trade pending free agents. Manager Pat Murphy also deserves a huge amount of credit, embracing the team's underdog mentality and turning it into a rallying cry for a group of players that consistently overachieves.

FINAL ANALYSIS

While most on the outside will continue to underrate the Brewers, the team believes it'll be in the mix every season. And that mindset makes a difference, with young players learning from the very start that anything less than the best won't be tolerated and veterans coming over from different organizations seeing that the organization is as serious as it gets about winning. It hasn't resulted in a World Series berth yet, but that remains the ultimate goal.

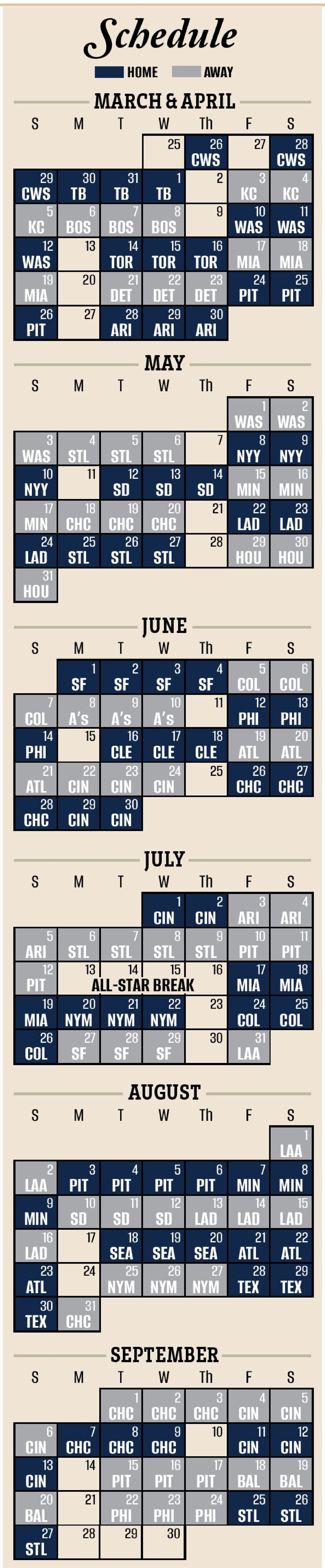
BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

MURPH MAKES HIS MARK In being named the National League's Manager of the Year for the second straight season on Nov. 11, Pat Murphy became only the third manager in either league to win the award in consecutive seasons, joining Atlanta's Bobby Cox (2004-05) and Tampa Bay's Kevin Cash (2020-21). A day later, Cleveland's Stephen Vogt became the fourth.

ARNOLD HONORED AGAIN President of baseball operations Matt Arnold became the first two-time winner of the MLB Executive of the Year Award since it debuted in 2018. It's voted on by executives from all 30 teams prior to the start of the postseason. In 2024, Arnold became the first Milwaukee executive to be so honored. Since Arnold assumed the reins from David Stearns as the Brewers' top baseball decision-maker following the 2022 season, the team has won three straight NL Central Division titles and in 2025 set a franchise record with 97 victories.

YOUNG BLOOD Jackson Chourio hit 21 home runs and stole 21 bases in 2026, becoming the youngest player in major-league history to record multiple 20/20 seasons (21 years, 199 days). The previous record was held by Mike Trout, who accomplished the feat on his 22nd birthday in 2013.

LONG TIME COMING When the Brewers beat the Chicago Cubs in the National League Division Series, 3-2, it marked their first postseason series triumph since sweeping the Colorado Rockies in the NLDS in 2018.



Schedule

■ HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 CWS	27	28 CWS
29 CWS	30 TB	31 TB	1 TB	2	3 KC	4 KC
5 KC	6 BOS	7 BOS	8 BOS	9	10 WAS	11 WAS
12 WAS	13	14 TOR	15 TOR	16 TOR	17 MIA	18 MIA
19 MIA	20	21 DET	22 DET	23 DET	24 PIT	25 PIT
26 PIT	27	28 ARI	29 ARI	30 ARI		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 WAS	2 WAS
3 WAS	4 STL	5 STL	6 STL	7	8 NYY	9 NYY
10 NYY	11	12 SD	13 SD	14 SD	15 MIN	16 MIN
17 MIN	18 CHC	19 CHC	20 CHC	21	22 LAD	23 LAD
24 LAD	25 STL	26 STL	27 STL	28	29 HOU	30 HOU
31 HOU						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 SF	2 SF	3 SF	4 SF	5 COL	6 COL
7 COL	8 A's	9 A's	10 A's	11	12 PHI	13 PHI
14 PHI	15	16 CLE	17 CLE	18 CLE	19 ATL	20 ATL
21 ATL	22 CIN	23 CIN	24 CIN	25	26 CHC	27 CHC
28 CHC	29 CIN	30 CIN				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 CIN	2 CIN	3 ARI	4 ARI
5 ARI	6 STL	7 STL	8 STL	9 STL	10 PIT	11 PIT
12 PIT	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 MIA	18 MIA
19 MIA	20 NYM	21 NYM	22 NYM	23	24 COL	25 COL
26 COL	27 SF	28 SF	29 SF	30	31 LAA	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 LAA
2 LAA	3 PIT	4 PIT	5 PIT	6 PIT	7 MIN	8 MIN
9 MIN	10 SD	11 SD	12 SD	13 LAD	14 LAD	15 LAD
16 LAD	17	18 SEA	19 SEA	20 SEA	21 ATL	22 ATL
23 ATL	24	25 NYM	26 NYM	27 NYM	28 TEX	29 TEX
30 TEX	31 CHC					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 CHC	2 CHC	3 CHC	4 CIN	5 CIN
6 CIN	7 CHC	8 CHC	9 CHC	10	11 CIN	12 CIN
13 CIN	14	15 PIT	16 PIT	17 PIT	18 BAL	19 BAL
20 BAL	21	22 PHI	23 PHI	24 PHI	25 STL	26 STL
27 STL	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

4 Career postseason home runs hit by Jackson Chourio in 12 games, tying him with Orlando Arcia and Prince Fielder for the Brewers' franchise record.

◆

19 Consecutive wins by the Brewers in games in which Quinn Priester started from May 30-Sept. 18.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

DAVE KALLMANN / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

- **1. Jesús Made, SS/2B (18) The switch-hitter is considered to be one of the top three prospects in all of baseball.**

2. Luis Peña, SS/2B (19) Peña is faster than Made but with more development needed at the plate.

3. Cooper Pratt, SS (21) The 2023 draftee is probably a year away from competing for the shortstop job.

4. Jeferson Quero, C (23) Quero is expected to debut as Milwaukee's backup catcher in 2026.

5. Logan Henderson, RHP (24) After breaking into the majors in 2025, Henderson is seeking to stick.

6. Bishop Letson, RHP (21) Features some freaky physical attributes that are reminiscent of Jacob Misiorowski.

7. Andrew Fischer, 3B/1B (21) Milwaukee's 2025 first-round pick could be on the fast track to the majors as a hitter.

8. Marco Dinges, C (22) His bat is his calling card — he already produces major-league-level bat speed.

9. Luis Lara, OF (21) Diminutive, pesky hitter who was honored as the best defensive center fielder in the minor leagues in 2025.

10. Josh Adamczewski, OF (20) Switched from middle infield to left field in 2025 with his offense pushing him through the system.

Brewers Roster

President, Baseball Operations and General Manager: Matt Arnold • **Manager:** Pat Murphy • **Coaches:** Spencer Allen (first base), Néstor Corredor (field coordinator), Matt Erickson (third base), Charlie Greene (bullpen), Jim Henderson (pitching coordinator), Chris Hook (pitching), Jason Lane (offense and strategy coordinator), Guillermo Martinez (hitting), Juan Sandoval (asst. pitching), Eric Theisen (lead hitting), Daniel Vogelbach (hitting)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
56	Grant Anderson	R-R	6-0	204	6/21/97	**MILWAUKEE**	2-6	3.23	66	0	0	69.2	59	29	74
						Nashville (AAA)	0-0	13.50	2	0	0	2.0	2	1	1
26	Aaron Ashby	R-L	6-0	188	5/24/98	**MILWAUKEE**	5-2	2.16	43	1	3	66.2	54	24	76
						Nashville (AAA)	0-0	1.50	4	0	0	6.0	3	5	4
	Coleman Crow	R-R	6-0	175	12/30/00	Nashville (AAA)	0-1	7.71	2	2	0	7.0	9	4	12
						Biloxi (AA)	4-0	2.51	10	10	0	43.0	31	8	52
54	Robert Gasser	L-L	6-0	192	5/31/99	**MILWAUKEE**	0-2	3.18	2	2	0	5.2	5	4	5
						Nashville (AAA)	3-2	2.25	10	6	0	32.0	25	10	36
						Wisconsin (A+)	0-0	3.60	3	3	0	5.0	3	1	5
37	DL Hall	L-L	6-1	204	9/19/98	**MILWAUKEE**	1-0	3.49	20	3	0	38.2	24	17	27
						Nashville (AAA)	1-0	0.00	2	1	0	5.2	3	4	7
						ACL Brewers (R)	0-0	0.00	2	2	0	5.0	1	2	8
43	Logan Henderson	R-R	6-0	209	3/2/02	**MILWAUKEE**	3-0	1.78	5	5	0	25.1	17	8	33
						Nashville (AAA)	10-4	3.59	16	15	0	77.2	62	24	87
47	Jared Koenig	R-L	6-5	248	1/24/94	**MILWAUKEE**	6-1	2.86	72	0	2	66.0	57	20	68
50	Easton McGee	R-R	6-7	217	12/26/97	**MILWAUKEE**	0-0	5.52	9	0	0	14.2	15	5	13
						Nashville (AAA)	5-0	3.59	32	1	1	47.2	34	19	53
29	Trevor Megill	L-R	6-8	249	12/5/93	**MILWAUKEE**	6-3	2.49	50	0	30	47.0	36	17	60
32	Jacob Misiorowski	R-R	6-7	197	4/3/02	**MILWAUKEE**	5-3	4.36	15	14	0	66.0	51	31	87
						Nashville (AAA)	4-2	2.13	13	12	0	63.1	38	31	80
36	Tobias Myers	R-R	6-1	223	8/5/98	**MILWAUKEE**	1-2	3.55	22	6	0	50.2	54	15	38
						Nashville (AAA)	2-5	3.77	12	12	0	59.2	61	17	55
39	Chad Patrick	R-R	6-1	217	8/14/98	**MILWAUKEE**	3-8	3.53	27	23	0	119.2	113	40	127
						Nashville (AAA)	2-4	4.04	8	8	0	42.1	37	17	45
51	Freddy Peralta	R-R	6-0	198	6/4/96	**MILWAUKEE**	17-6	2.70	33	33	0	176.2	124	66	204
	Sammy Peralta	L-L	6-2	215	5/10/98	**LOS ANGELES AL**	0-1	7.59	5	0	0	10.2	14	6	8
						Salt Lake (AAA)	6-2	4.33	24	7	0	70.2	66	14	70
46	Quinn Priester	R-R	6-3	210	9/16/00	**MILWAUKEE**	13-3	3.32	29	24	0	157.1	145	50	132
						Worcester (AAA)	0-1	4.50	1	1	0	4.0	6	0	6
27	Carlos Rodriguez	R-R	5-11	205	11/27/01	**MILWAUKEE**	1-0	6.52	4	0	0	9.2	13	9	11
						Nashville (AAA)	3-4	3.82	17	15	1	77.2	67	38	82
						ACL Brewers (R)	0-0	4.26	2	2	0	6.1	9	0	4
45	Abner Uribe	R-R	6-3	210	6/20/00	**MILWAUKEE**	3-2	1.67	75	0	7	75.1	51	27	90
53	Brandon Woodruff	L-R	6-4	242	2/10/93	**MILWAUKEE**	7-2	3.20	12	12	0	64.2	45	14	83
						Nashville (AAA)	1-1	3.55	7	7	0	25.1	23	8	23
						Wisconsin (A+)	2-1	1.62	3	3	0	16.2	14	4	12
48	Craig Yoho	R-R	6-2	235	10/23/99	**MILWAUKEE**	0-0	7.27	8	0	0	8.2	8	9	7
						Nashville (AAA)	6-1	0.94	43	0	8	47.2	26	20	60
58	Rob Zastryzny	R-L	6-3	205	3/26/92	**MILWAUKEE**	2-1	2.45	26	1	0	22.0	16	10	20
						Nashville (AAA)	0-0	9.00	9	1	0	7.0	9	4	7
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	0-0	4.50	13	0	0	12.0	16	0	12
61	Angel Zerpa	L-L	6-0	220	9/27/99	**KANSAS CITY**	5-2	4.18	69	2	0	64.2	67	22	58

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
24	William Contreras	R-R	5-10	218	12/24/97	**MILWAUKEE**	.260	150	566	89	147	17	76	84	120	6
76	Jeferson Quero	R-R	5-11	203	10/8/02	Nashville (AAA)	.255	58	216	32	55	6	44	25	35	2
						ACL Brewers (R)	.371	11	35	10	13	5	13	7	5	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
9	Jake Bauers	L-L	6-0	203	10/6/95	**MILWAUKEE**	.235	86	183	28	43	7	28	32	59	8
						Nashville (AAA)	.211	5	19	4	4	3	5	3	8	0
7	Tyler Black	L-R	6-1	199	7/26/00	**MILWAUKEE**	.250	5	8	1	2	0	1	5	1	0
						Nashville (AAA)	.243	61	222	33	54	4	34	43	71	22
						ACL Brewers (R)	.387	10	31	7	12	1	5	8	3	0
21	Caleb Durbin	R-R	5-7	183	2/22/00	**MILWAUKEE**	.256	136	445	60	114	11	53	30	50	18
						Nashville (AAA)	.278	13	54	12	15	2	3	3	5	3
14	Andruw Monasterio	R-R	5-11	195	5/30/97	**MILWAUKEE**	.270	68	126	19	34	4	16	7	32	2
						Nashville (AAA)	.250	30	112	18	28	4	11	16	31	8
3	Joey Ortiz	R-R	5-10	183	7/14/98	**MILWAUKEE**	.230	149	470	62	108	7	45	27	74	14
18	Anthony Seigler	L-S	5-10	192	6/20/99	**MILWAUKEE**	.194	34	62	6	12	0	5	8	16	2
						Nashville (AAA)	.285	72	249	51	71	8	39	52	59	23
2	Brice Turang	L-R	5-11	190	11/21/99	**MILWAUKEE**	.288	156	584	97	168	18	81	66	150	24
28	Andrew Vaughn	R-R	5-10	215	4/3/98	**MILWAUKEE**	.308	64	221	26	68	9	46	24	37	0
						Nashville (AAA)	.259	16	58	8	15	3	16	7	13	0
						CHICAGO AL	.189	48	185	9	35	5	19	7	43	0
						Charlotte (AAA)	.211	15	57	9	12	2	11	10	10	0

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
25	Akil Baddoo	L-L	5-11	214	8/16/98	**DETROIT**	.118	7	17	0	2	0	1	1	5	1
						Toledo (AAA)	.281	103	385	71	108	15	48	68	112	25
						Lakeland (A)	.261	7	23	4	6	1	4	2	5	2
35	Steward Berroa	S-R	5-9	178	6/5/99	**MILWAUKEE**	.000	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
						Nashville (AAA)	.195	26	82	14	16	1	7	18	33	11
						Wisconsin (A+)	.143	8	21	3	3	0	3	6	6	3
						Buffalo (AAA)	.195	24	77	15	15	0	4	8	24	9
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	.330	27	97	23	32	1	11	17	22	11
11	Jackson Chourio	R-R	6-0	204	3/11/04	**MILWAUKEE**	.270	131	549	88	148	21	78	30	121	21
						Nashville (AAA)	.053	5	19	1	1	0	0	2	8	0
10	Sal Frelick	L-R	5-8	188	4/19/00	**MILWAUKEE**	.288	142	528	76	152	12	63	47	80	19
20	Brandon Lockridge	R-R	5-11	185	3/14/97	**MILWAUKEE**	.261	20	46	8	12	0	6	4	12	2
						Nashville (AAA)	.351	13	57	12	20	0	7	6	11	4
						SAN DIEGO	.216	47	88	9	19	0	5	4	24	8
						El Paso (AAA)	.291	21	79	19	23	2	6	15	17	7
5	Garrett Mitchell	L-R	6-2	228	9/4/98	**MILWAUKEE**	.206	25	68	9	14	0	3	7	25	3
						Nashville (AAA)	.556	3	9	5	5	0	1	2	1	0
						ACL Brewers (R)	.000	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
16	Blake Perkins	S-R	6-0	187	9/10/96	**MILWAUKEE**	.226	54	155	25	35	3	19	15	47	7
						Nashville (AAA)	.192	8	26	6	5	1	2	8	13	2
						ACL Brewers (R)	.389	7	18	4	7	0	2	4	4	1
22	Christian Yelich	L-R	6-3	203	12/5/91	**MILWAUKEE**	.264	150	573	88	151	29	103	64	167	16

Pittsburgh PIRATES

2026 PREDICTION
4TH
NL CENTRAL
2025 FINISH: 5TH (71-91)

PAUL SKENES

BENNY SIEU-IMAGN IMAGES

The perpetually rebuilding Pirates say they are in win-now mode. They have had only one winning season in the 10 years since they made the playoffs for the third straight season (2013-15). They finished last in the NL Central in 2025 with a 71-91 record and scored the fewest runs in the major leagues.

The Pirates want to leverage having Paul Skenes leading their pitching staff as long as possible. They hold four more years of contractual control over the 2025 NL Cy Young winner and want to take advantage of that window to make a potential run at their first World Series appearance since 1979.

ROTATION

Skenes followed his NL Rookie of the Year performance with the NL Cy Young Award last year. As scary as it seems, Skenes is likely to get better because he is just 23. He is everything teams look for in an ace, complementing his outstanding seven-pitch arsenal with intelligence, competitiveness, durability and maturity. Mitch Keller slots in as the No. 2 starter and a reliable source of innings. Though slightly better than average, Keller adds stability to a talented group of young starters. Bubba Chandler and Braxton Ashcraft made their major-league debuts last season and were outstanding. Both have high ceilings and could team with Skenes to give the Pirates a formidable "Big Three." Pittsburgh traded Mike Burrows and Johan Oviedo for hitters during the offseason. However, the Pirates still have depth with youngsters Carmen Mlodzinski and Thomas Harrington in the running for a rotation spot with left-handed prospect Hunter Barco. Hard-throwing Jared Jones should be back by midseason after undergoing internal brace surgery on his right elbow in May.

BULLPEN

Dennis Santana is expected to begin the season as the closer. He filled the role admirably over the final two months of last season following the trade of two-time All-Star David Bednar. Santana has been quite a find for the Pirates, who claimed the journeyman off waivers from the New York Yankees in 2024. Lefthander Gregory Soto and Isaac Mattson figure to set up Santana, and Mlodzinski will also be part of that mix if he doesn't start. The Pirates signed the durable Soto to a one-year contract worth $7.75 million as a free agent in December. Mattson is a late bloomer who was playing in independent ball two years ago. The Pirates could carry three lefty relievers with Mason Montgomery and Evan Sisk complementing Soto. Justin Lawrence, Kyle Nicolas, and Yohan Ramírez are front-runners for bullpen spots, though Chase Shugart and Cam Sanders could challenge, along with prospects Brandan Bidois and Ryan Harbin.

MIDDLE INFIELD

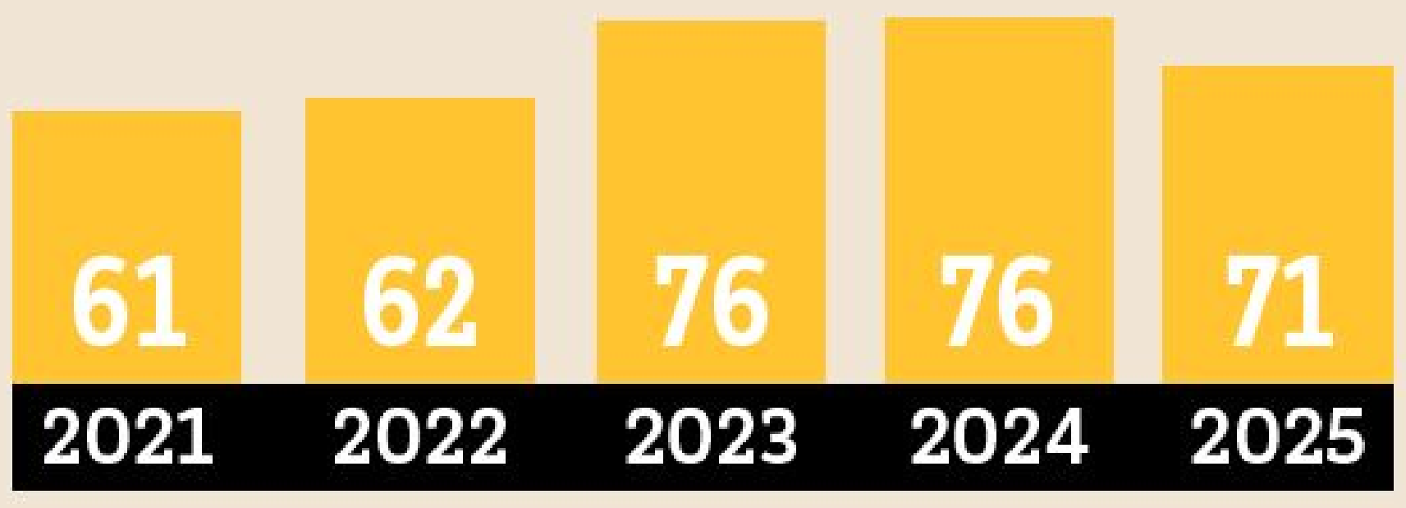
Shortstop Konnor Griffin appears on the brink of the major leagues despite being just 19 and not having played above the Double-A level. He was the consensus Minor League Player of the Year last season, only a year after being the Pirates' first-round draft pick. If Griffin doesn't start the season in the big leagues, he certainly should reach Pittsburgh at some point during the year.

PNC Park

Opened: 2001 • Capacity: 38,747
Left: 325′ Center: 410′ Right: 320′
Tickets: 877-893-2827
mlb.com/PIRATES

◆

5-Year Win Trend



◆

Statline

Lowest team FIP against left-handed hitters, 2025

1. Pirates	**3.75**
2. Phillies	3.87
3. Brewers	3.90
4. Rangers	3.92
5. Giants	3.94

The likely placeholder at shortstop would be Nick Gonzales, who was the primary second baseman each of the past two seasons but lost that job over the winter when the Pirates traded for Tampa Bay Rays All-Star Brandon Lowe. Lowe gives the Pirates a desperately needed left-handed power hitter. He hit 31 home runs last season and 157 during his eight-year career with the Rays. Nick Yorke is still young enough to project as an everyday player. For now, though, the Pirates need the versatility of someone who can play all the infield and outfield positions.

CORNERS

First baseman Spencer Horwitz missed most of the first two months of last season while recovering from hand surgery after the Pirates acquired him from the Toronto Blue Jays in an offseason trade. Horwitz ended up being the most productive hitter in an anemic lineup. The Pirates traded Gold Glove-winning third baseman Ke'Bryan Hayes to the Cincinnati Reds last July, and that opens the door for Jared Triolo, who won the NL Gold Glove for utility players in 2024. Like Hayes, Triolo is an outstanding defender but lacks the power traditionally associated with the position. Enmanuel Valdez can play both corner spots. His 2025 season was limited to 31 games before he had left shoulder surgery.

ONEIL CRUZ

CHARLES LECLAIRE-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

The Pirates hope for bounce-back seasons from center fielder Oneil Cruz and right fielder Bryan Reynolds. The ultra-talented Cruz hit 20 home runs and tied for the NL lead with 38 stolen bases, but he also hit .200, struck out 174 times in 544 plate appearances and had minus-14 defensive runs saved. Reynolds' numbers dropped last year to .245 and 16 homers. In the four previous seasons, Reynolds had a .276 batting average, averaged 25 home runs per year and played in two All-Star Games. The Pirates have multiple options for left field, though none are considered sure things. Among those in the mix will be Jake Mangum, Jack Suwinski, Jhostynxon Garcia, Yorke, rookie Billy Cook and prospect Esmerlyn Valdez. Pittsburgh acquired Mangum and Garcia from the Rays and Boston Red Sox, respectively, in offseason trades. Suwinski belted 26 home runs for the Pirates in 2023 but has struggled to stay in the major leagues since then.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

1B	Spencer Horwitz (L)
2B	Brandon Lowe (L)
RF	Bryan Reynolds (S)
DH	Ryan O'Hearn (L)
SS	Nick Gonzales (R)
CF	Oneil Cruz (L)
3B	Jared Triolo (R)
LF	Jake Mangum (S)
C	Joey Bart (R)

■ BENCH

C	Henry Davis (R)
INF/OF	Nick Yorke (R)
OF	Jhonstynxon Garcia (R)
OF	Jack Suwinski (L)

■ ROTATION

RHP	Paul Skenes
RHP	Mitch Keller
RHP	Braxton Ashcraft
RHP	Bubba Chandler
RHP	Carmen Mlodzinski

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Dennis Santana (C)
LHP	Gregory Soto
RHP	Isaac Mattson
RHP	Justin Lawrence
LHP	Mason Montgomery
RHP	Kyle Nicolas
LHP	Evan Sisk
RHP	Yohan Ramírez

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE PIRATES "Nothing ever changes with the Pirates, and it's pretty sad. They've got the best pitcher in baseball in Paul Skenes and a future superstar coming in Konnor Griffin, but their offense is a mess — dead last in homers and nobody else was even close. They should bench Oneil Cruz to light a fire under him; he doesn't even try. Bryan Reynolds is fine, but they need two sluggers to take the pressure off him to be 'the guy.' At least their pitching is real; Henry Davis doesn't hit, but he's good at pitch sequencing and these guys have the talent to execute at a high level. I'm a big Braxton Ashcroft fan. He's got a Dave Stieb slider that you don't see much anymore — bigger than a cutter, but not a sweeper like everyone throws. And he's just a big, physical dude who wants to rip your face off. Bubba Chandler's fastball is so good that he'll be successful early in his career, but he'll need to refine his other stuff to last a while. And Dennis Santana will have staying power as a big-league closer with five pitches and that slider/cutter combination."

CATCHING

Joey Bart turned his career around in 2024 after the Pirates acquired him from San Francisco in an early-season trade. However, he regressed offensively in 2025 and has never been a good defensive catcher. Competition for Bart's starting job this spring could come from Henry Davis, Rafael Flores Jr. and Endy Rodríguez. Davis, the first overall selection in the 2021 draft, has hit just .181 in 186 career big-league games but has worked hard to make himself a good defensive catcher. Flores is a power-hitting prospect acquired from the New York Yankees in the Bednar trade. Rodríguez was once the Pirates' top prospect but has missed most of the past two seasons while recovering from two elbow surgeries.

DH/BENCH

Ryan O'Hearn slots in as the likely DH for 2026 after franchise icon Andrew McCutchen had the job the past three seasons. The Pirates signed O'Hearn to a two-year, $29 million contract just before the holidays. O'Hearn can also play first base and the outfield corners but started for the American League at DH in last year's All-Star Game while playing for the Baltimore Orioles. The early-line favorites for bench jobs are Davis, Yorke, Garcia, and Suwinski.

MANAGEMENT

General manager Ben Cherington begins his seventh season on the job, but the architect of the 2013 World Series-winning Red Sox hasn't had a team win more than 76 games in a season in Pittsburgh. The Pirates might have to finish above .500 for Cherington to keep his job. Bench coach Don Kelly, a Pittsburgh-area native, was promoted to replace fired manager Derek Shelton on May 9 and then received a multi-year contract extension a day after the season ended. Kelly is universally liked and respected throughout the organization.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The fans are tired of owner Bob Nutting's frugal ways and 29 losing seasons in the past 33 years. Attendance was down in '24, and fan anger was up. The Pirates can placate the fans by contending, and they have outstanding starting pitching. Whether they're good enough to make a run at the postseason is questionable.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

LOWE LOVES THE WILDERNESS Brandon Lowe wasn't completely off the grid when he found out he had been traded to the Pirates from the Tampa Bay Rays on Dec. 19. However, he was close, as he and a group of friends were on a duck hunting trip in Arkansas. Lowe fashions himself as an outdoorsman, saying: "There's something about watching the sun come up in the timber or up in a deer stand and stuff like that. It's peaceful, it's quiet, and brings you closer to God's creations, and slows down life a little bit."

PIRATES ACCESS PASSWORD Jhostynxon Garcia gained the nickname "The Password" while playing in the Boston Red Sox's organization because of his uniquely spelled first name. The outfielder loves the moniker and even told Pirates general manager Ben Cherington after being traded to Pittsburgh that he prefers to be called by it. Garcia's younger brother, Johanfran, who is in the Red Sox organization, goes by the nickname "The Username."

STEWARD OF THE GAME When righthander Paul Skenes won the National League Cy Young in November, he became philosophical after joining Vernon Law (1960) and Doug Drabek (1990) as just the third Pirates pitcher to win the award. Skenes said it was just as important to be a "steward of the game" as winning the Cy Young. "Cy Young Award or not, that doesn't change that," Skenes said. "I'm obviously grateful to win the award, but just to be able to play the game — 162 games, my first full big-league season. I was healthy the whole time. Those are the sweetest parts about it."

Schedule

🟨 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	▨ 26 NYM	27	▨ 28 NYM
▨ 29 NYM	▨ 30 CIN	▨ 31 CIN	▨ 1 CIN	2	🟨 3 BAL	🟨 4 BAL
🟨 5 BAL	🟨 6 SD	🟨 7 SD	🟨 8 SD	9	▨ 10 CHC	▨ 11 CHC
▨ 12 CHC	🟨 13 WAS	🟨 14 WAS	🟨 15 WAS	🟨 16 WAS	🟨 17 TB	🟨 18 TB
🟨 19 TB	20	▨ 21 TEX	▨ 22 TEX	▨ 23 TEX	▨ 24 MIL	▨ 25 MIL
▨ 26 MIL	🟨 27 STL	🟨 28 STL	🟨 29 STL	🟨 30 STL		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					🟨 1 CIN	🟨 2 CIN
🟨 3 CIN	4	▨ 5 ARI	▨ 6 ARI	▨ 7 ARI	▨ 8 SF	▨ 9 SF
▨ 10 SF	11	🟨 12 COL	🟨 13 COL	🟨 14 COL	🟨 15 PHI	🟨 16 PHI
🟨 17 PHI	18	▨ 19 STL	▨ 20 STL	▨ 21 STL	▨ 22 TOR	▨ 23 TOR
▨ 24 TOR	🟨 25 CHC	🟨 26 CHC	🟨 27 CHC	🟨 28 CHC	🟨 29 MIN	🟨 30 MIN
🟨 31 MIN						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	▨ 2 HOU	▨ 3 HOU	▨ 4 HOU	▨ 5 ATL	▨ 6 ATL
▨ 7 ATL	8	🟨 9 LAD	🟨 10 LAD	🟨 11 LAD	🟨 12 MIA	🟨 13 MIA
🟨 14 MIA	▨ 15 A's	▨ 16 A's	▨ 17 A's	18	▨ 19 COL	▨ 20 COL
▨ 21 COL	22	🟨 23 SEA	🟨 24 SEA	🟨 25 SEA	🟨 26 CIN	🟨 27 CIN
🟨 28 CIN	▨ 29 PHI	▨ 30 PHI				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			▨ 1 PHI	▨ 2 PHI	▨ 3 WAS	▨ 4 WAS
▨ 5 WAS	6	🟨 7 ATL	🟨 8 ATL	🟨 9 ATL	🟨 10 MIL	🟨 11 MIL
🟨 12 MIL	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	▨ 17 CLE	▨ 18 CLE
▨ 19 CLE	▨ 20 NYY	▨ 21 NYY	▨ 22 NYY	23	🟨 24 CHC	🟨 25 CHC
🟨 26 CHC	🟨 27 ARI	🟨 28 ARI	🟨 29 ARI	▨ 30 CIN	▨ 31 CIN	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						▨ 1 CIN
▨ 2 CIN	▨ 3 MIL	▨ 4 MIL	▨ 5 MIL	▨ 6 MIL	🟨 7 NYM	🟨 8 NYM
🟨 9 NYM	10	▨ 11 MIA	▨ 12 MIA	▨ 13 MIA	🟨 14 BOS	🟨 15 BOS
🟨 16 BOS	🟨 17 DET	🟨 18 DET	🟨 19 DET	20	▨ 21 LAD	▨ 22 LAD
▨ 23 LAD	▨ 24 SD	▨ 25 SD	▨ 26 SD	27	▨ 28 STL	▨ 29 STL
▨ 30 STL	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		🟨 1 SF	🟨 2 SF	🟨 3 SF	🟨 4 LAA	🟨 5 LAA
🟨 6 LAA	7	▨ 8 CWS	▨ 9 CWS	▨ 10 CWS	▨ 11 CHC	▨ 12 CHC
▨ 13 CHC	14	🟨 15 MIL	🟨 16 MIL	🟨 17 MIL	🟨 18 KC	🟨 19 KC
🟨 20 KC	21	🟨 22 STL	🟨 23 STL	🟨 24 STL	▨ 25 DET	▨ 26 DET
▨ 27 DET	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

117 Home runs hit by the Pirates in 2025, the fewest in MLB and 31 fewer than any other team.

◆

1.96 Paul Skenes' career ERA through 55 starts. No pitcher in big-league history has had a lower mark after making at least 50 career starts in their first two seasons since ERA became an official statistic in 1912.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

CHARLES LECLAIRE-USA TODAY SPORTS

1. Konnor Griffin, SS/CF (19) Consensus Minor League Player of the Year in 2025 and top prospect in baseball.

2. Bubba Chandler, RHP (23) Had 31 strikeouts in 31.1 innings in his first taste of MLB last season.

3. Seth Hernandez, RHP (19) Might have been the best raw talent in last year's draft.

4. Edward Florentino, OF/1B (19) Emerging power threat in lower minors.

5. Hunter Barco, LHP (25) Has a big fan in Cy Young winner Paul Skenes.

6. Jhostynxon Garcia, OF (23) Pirates happy to acquire "The Password" from the Red Sox.

7. Termarr Johnson, 2B (21) The shine is starting to fade on the 2021 first-round pick.

8. Rafael Flores Jr., C (25) Has big-time power, but defense is questionable.

9. Antwone Kelly, RHP (22) Aruban was a breakout prospect in 2025.

10. Wilber Dotel, RHP (23) Another in Pirates' strong stable of pitching prospects.

Pirates Roster

General Manager: Ben Cherington • **Manager:** Don Kelly • **Coaches:** Tony Beasley (third base), Tarrik Brock (first base), Matt Hague (hitting), Gene Lamont (special assignment), Christian Marrero (asst. hitting), Stephen Morales (assistant), Bill Murphy (pitching), Kristopher Negrón (bench), Miguel Perez (bullpen), Chris Truby (infield), Jonny Tucker, Thomas Whitsett (asst. pitching)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
67	Braxton Ashcraft	L-R	6-5	220	10/5/99	**PITTSBURGH**	4-4	2.71	26	8	0	69.2	63	24	71
						Indianapolis (AAA)	3-3	5.03	10	10	0	48.1	53	19	56
45	Hunter Barco	L-L	6-4	235	12/15/00	**PITTSBURGH**	1-0	0.00	2	0	0	3.0	3	0	3
						Indianapolis (AAA)	3-1	3.79	21	17	0	73.2	59	42	82
						Altoona (AA)	1-0	0.00	6	6	0	25.2	11	7	34
77	Brandan Bidois	R-R	6-2	158	6/21/01	Indianapolis (AAA)	1-0	0.00	9	0	2	13.0	1	6	15
						Altoona (AA)	4-0	1.08	14	0	0	25.0	10	8	26
						Greensboro (A+)	2-0	0.86	16	0	5	21.0	11	13	27
57	Bubba Chandler	S-R	6-3	218	9/14/02	**PITTSBURGH**	4-1	4.02	7	4	1	31.1	25	4	31
						Indianapolis (AAA)	5-6	4.05	24	24	0	100.0	95	53	121
86	Wilber Dotel	R-R	6-3	178	9/25/02	Altoona (AA)	7-9	4.15	27	27	0	125.2	111	43	131
84	Ryan Harbin	R-R	6-4	195	8/6/01	Indianapolis (AAA)	1-1	11.48	14	1	2	13.1	20	16	15
						Altoona (AA)	1-1	3.66	14	0	1	19.2	17	7	31
						Greensboro (A+)	2-2	2.37	22	0	4	30.1	18	23	46
78	Thomas Harrington	R-R	6-2	185	7/12/01	**PITTSBURGH**	0-1	15.58	3	1	1	8.2	18	7	7
						Indianapolis (AAA)	7-9	5.34	21	20	0	96.0	93	33	90
37	Jared Jones	L-R	6-0	190	8/6/01	Injured — Missed Season									
23	Mitch Keller	R-R	6-3	212	4/4/96	**PITTSBURGH**	6-15	4.19	32	32	0	176.1	171	51	150
89	Antwone Kelly	R-R	5-10	183	9/1/03	Altoona (AA)	2-2	3.00	11	11	0	48.0	40	16	46
						Greensboro (A+)	1-1	3.03	14	14	0	59.1	41	17	70
61	Justin Lawrence	R-R	6-3	213	11/25/94	**PITTSBURGH**	1-0	0.51	17	0	0	17.2	9	8	23
						Indianapolis (AAA)	0-0	11.81	6	0	0	5.1	4	6	9
						Bradenton (A)	1-0	0.00	2	0	0	2.0	0	1	4
72	Isaac Mattson	R-R	6-2	215	7/14/95	**PITTSBURGH**	3-3	2.45	44	0	0	47.2	35	19	45
						Indianapolis (AAA)	2-0	2.57	19	0	4	21.0	14	6	25
50	Carmen Mlodzinski	R-R	6-2	220	2/19/99	**PITTSBURGH**	5-8	3.55	34	12	0	99.0	102	27	89
						Indianapolis (AAA)	2-0	1.15	3	3	0	15.2	11	7	16
	Mason Montgomery	L-L	6-2	205	6/17/00	**TAMPA BAY**	1-3	5.67	57	0	1	46.0	49	27	63
						Durham (AAA)	1-0	2.00	9	0	2	9.0	6	1	15
66	Kyle Nicolas	R-R	6-3	225	2/22/99	**PITTSBURGH**	1-2	4.74	31	0	0	38.0	34	18	34
						Indianapolis (AAA)	2-2	3.79	30	1	5	35.2	35	20	50
49	Yohan Ramírez	R-R	6-3	200	5/6/95	**PITTSBURGH**	3-3	5.40	24	0	0	33.1	33	16	45
						Indianapolis (AAA)	2-1	3.19	27	0	7	31.0	27	12	41
64	Cam Sanders	R-R	6-2	175	12/9/96	**PITTSBURGH**	0-0	8.10	6	0	0	6.2	9	5	4
						Indianapolis (AAA)	2-2	2.30	23	0	5	27.1	14	13	36
						Altoona (AA)	2-0	1.90	18	0	9	23.2	12	13	26
60	Dennis Santana	R-R	6-2	190	4/12/96	**PITTSBURGH**	4-5	2.18	70	0	16	70.1	44	17	60
55	Chase Shugart	L-R	5-11	200	10/24/96	**PITTSBURGH**	4-3	3.40	35	0	0	45.0	33	17	31
						Indianapolis (AAA)	1-0	1.74	12	1	1	20.2	12	6	20
48	Evan Sisk	L-L	6-2	209	4/23/97	**PITTSBURGH**	1-1	4.38	14	0	0	12.1	11	5	14
						Indianapolis (AAA)	0-0	6.48	7	0	1	8.1	9	6	6
						KANSAS CITY	0-0	1.69	5	0	0	5.1	5	5	11
						Omaha (AAA)	0-2	3.77	31	0	4	28.2	37	9	36
30	Paul Skenes	R-R	6-6	260	5/29/02	**PITTSBURGH**	10-10	1.97	32	32	0	187.2	136	42	216
31	Gregory Soto	L-L	6-1	234	2/11/95	**BALTIMORE**	0-2	3.96	45	0	1	36.1	29	18	44
						NEW YORK NL	1-3	4.50	25	0	0	24.0	33	6	26

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
14	Joey Bart	R-R	6-3	235	12/15/96	**PITTSBURGH**	.249	93	285	21	71	4	30	40	93	1
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.231	5	13	1	3	0	2	4	6	0
32	Henry Davis	R-R	6-0	225	9/21/99	**PITTSBURGH**	.167	87	252	25	42	7	22	18	76	2
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.286	8	28	5	8	0	2	3	4	2
43	Rafael Flores Jr.	R-R	6-4	232	11/7/00	**PITTSBURGH**	.200	7	15	0	3	0	0	2	7	0
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.281	36	135	17	38	6	28	15	41	0
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	.211	10	38	3	8	1	4	11	13	0
						Somerset (AA)	.287	87	335	48	96	15	56	30	94	6

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Jack Brannigan	R-R	6-0	210	3/11/01	Altoona (AA)	.225	59	204	29	46	5	30	25	62	9
3	Nick Gonzales	R-R	5-9	200	5/27/99	**PITTSBURGH**	.260	96	381	39	99	5	30	21	73	0
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.194	9	36	3	7	0	1	0	11	0
2	Spencer Horwitz	L-R	5-11	200	11/14/97	**PITTSBURGH**	.272	108	364	55	99	11	51	44	73	0
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.323	8	31	5	10	1	2	1	7	0
						Altoona (AA)	.125	5	16	2	2	0	0	2	2	0
	Brandon Lowe	L-R	5-10	190	7/6/94	**TAMPA BAY**	.256	134	507	79	130	31	83	38	149	3
	Ryan O'Hearn	L-L	6-2	220	7/26/93	**BALTIMORE**	.283	94	311	45	88	13	43	42	63	3
						SAN DIEGO	.276	50	163	22	45	4	20	16	46	0
5	Endy Rodríguez	S-R	6-0	210	5/26/00	**PITTSBURGH**	.173	18	52	5	9	0	2	5	14	0
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.154	8	26	4	4	2	4	3	5	0
19	Jared Triolo	R-R	6-3	210	2/8/98	**PITTSBURGH**	.227	107	331	41	75	7	24	39	76	13
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.239	15	46	12	11	2	4	12	9	3
47	Enmanuel Valdez	L-R	5-9	190	12/28/98	**PITTSBURGH**	.209	31	91	7	19	2	12	11	16	0
38	Nick Yorke	R-R	6-0	210	4/2/02	**PITTSBURGH**	.232	22	69	7	16	1	8	3	15	1
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.287	103	401	55	115	7	59	36	97	17

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
25	Billy Cook	R-R	6-0	200	1/7/99	**PITTSBURGH**	.333	3	6	1	2	0	0	0	1	0
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.248	94	331	45	82	8	46	34	102	13
15	Oneil Cruz	L-R	6-7	240	10/4/98	**PITTSBURGH**	.200	135	471	62	94	20	61	64	174	38
34	Jhostynxon Garcia	R-R	6-0	163	12/11/02	**BOSTON**	.143	5	7	0	1	0	0	2	5	0
						Worcester (AAA)	.271	81	317	60	86	18	58	27	102	3
						Portland (AA)	.256	33	117	19	30	3	17	18	29	4
	Jake Mangum	S-L	6-0	190	3/8/96	**TAMPA BAY**	.296	118	405	37	120	3	40	19	64	27
10	Bryan Reynolds	S-R	6-2	205	1/27/95	**PITTSBURGH**	.245	154	587	68	144	16	73	57	173	3
65	Jack Suwinski	L-L	6-1	215	7/29/98	**PITTSBURGH**	.147	59	150	15	22	3	10	24	57	7
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.283	56	191	45	54	14	51	31	69	6
85	Esmerlyn Valdez	R-R	6-2	181	1/27/04	Altoona (AA)	.260	51	181	29	47	6	29	25	53	1
						Greensboro (A+)	.303	72	277	46	84	20	57	31	77	2

St. Louis CARDINALS

2026 PREDICTION
5TH
NL CENTRAL
2025 FINISH: 4TH (78-84)

The motto Chaim Bloom coined during his introduction as the Cardinals' first new head of baseball operations in a generation was four words long.

"We won't concede anything," Bloom said. He meant on the field. The same applies to the calendar.

While retiring the description "reset" and avoiding the word "rebuild," the Cardinals are embarking on their most significant reinvention in 30 years. This offseason, he traded two of the highest-paid veterans, All-Stars Sonny Gray and Willson Contreras, and prioritized accumulating young talent to forge a future core. After years of short-term jolts to maintain a middling challenger, the Cardinals are taking a long-term view to build a sustainable contender, testing even their famously devout fan base.

ROTATION

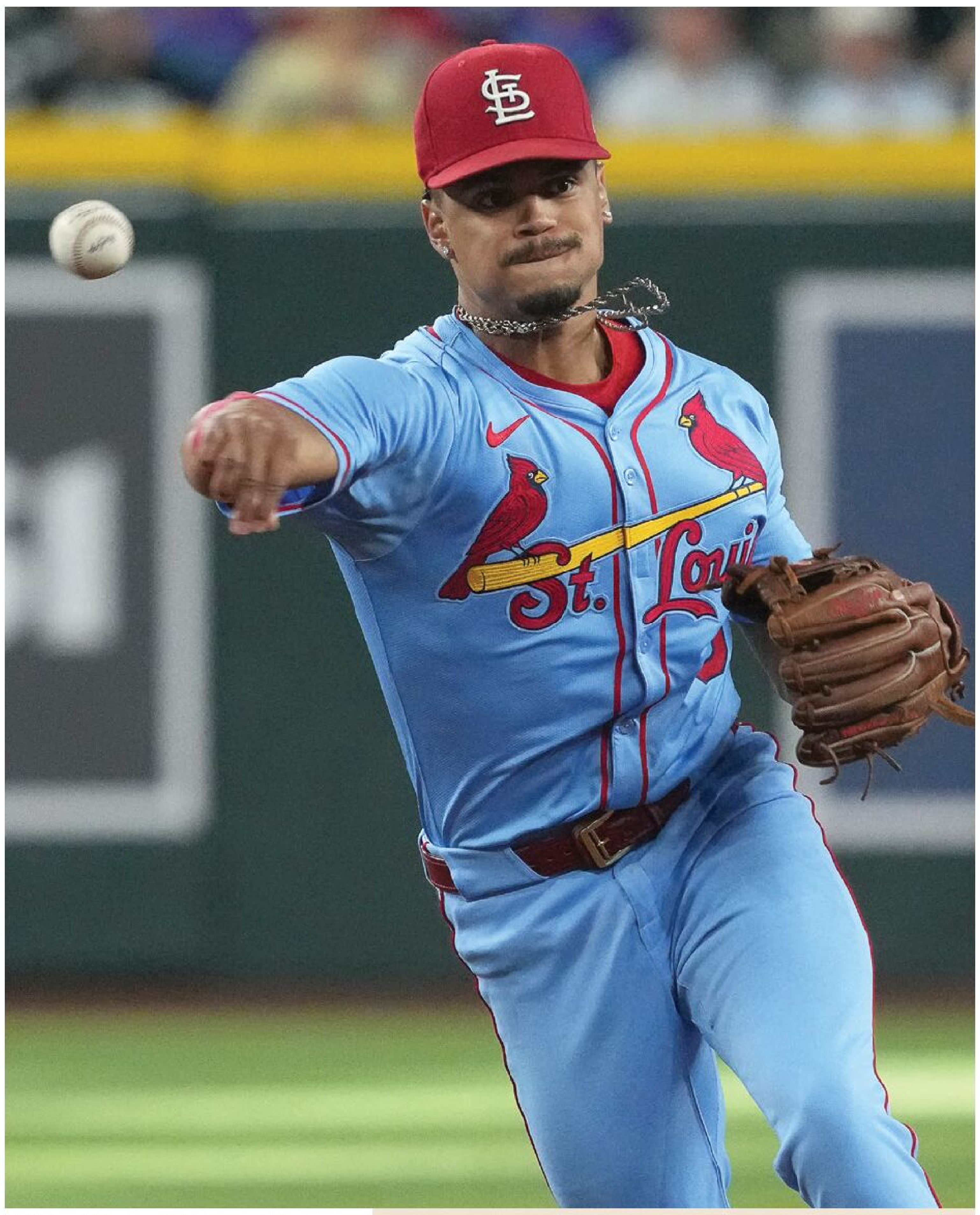
A youth movement has reached the rotation — and with it questions about who will shoulder the workload. A defining choice during spring gave lefty Matthew Liberatore the season to assert himself as a starter. And he did in 29 starts, averaging five-plus innings with a 3.96 ERA through the first 20. Of pitchers earmarked for the rotation, Liberatore is the only one with at least 25 starts in 2025. The Cardinals are banking on breakthroughs: newcomer Dustin May with his health, 2021 first-rounder Michael McGreevy in his second full season and Kyle Leahy as he shifts from a revelation in relief to a potential spot in the rotation. The Cardinals want to give Leahy and his intriguing assortment of pitches every opportunity, but they'll create competition by also auditioning former Red Sox prospects Richard Fitts and Hunter Dobbins and returning starter Andre Pallante. All are likely to start at some point because solving the Cardinals' innings riddle must be a group effort.

BULLPEN

The backbone of the past two seasons as the Cardinals went 55-43 in one-run games, the bullpen begins 2026 facing an adjustment and searching for a new closer. All-Star and club record-setter Ryan Helsley was traded in July, opening up the ninth for a handful of relievers who resume their bids to close. Riley O'Brien has the stuff for it with a modern mix: 98 mph sinker and two breaking balls — a 90 mph slider and 83 mph curve. Matt Svanson had a breakout debut, striking out nearly 30% of the batters he faced and bulldozing into a setup role. Beyond those two righthanders and lefty JoJo Romero, a trade candidate, the roles are wide open. Ryan Fernandez and Chris Roycroft have compelling fastballs, and Gordon Graceffo's focus on relief could produce more consistent command to go with rising velocity. Like seasoned experience, lefty depth is lacking. Opportunity is not.

MIDDLE INFIELD

The goal of entertaining trade offers for All-Star Brendan Donovan was to maximize the quality of young pitching the Cardinals could get in return and


MASYN WINN

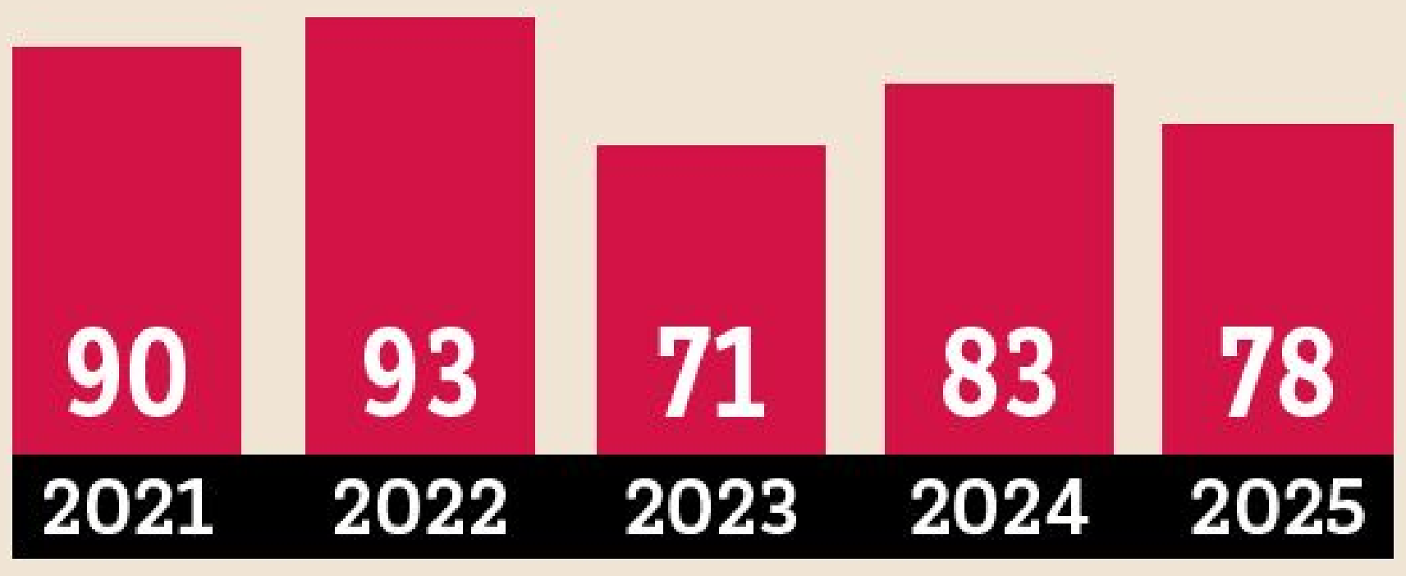
RICK SCUTERI-IMAGN IMAGES

Busch Stadium

Opened: 2006 • Capacity: 44,383
Left: 336′ Center: 400′ Right: 335′
Tickets: 314-345-9000
mlb.com/CARDINALS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Most runs prevented in the NL, 2025

1. Pete Crow-Armstrong, Cubs	22
T2. Ke'Bryan Hayes, Pirates/Reds	16
T2.Masyn Winn, Cardinals	**16**
4. Victor Scott II, Cardinals	**15**
5. Nick Allen, Braves	13

accelerate future-focused goals. They also wanted to create a position for premier prospect JJ Wetherholt. He's been playing shortstop, second and third in preparation for his 2026 debut. Donovan excels with a leadoff hitter's instincts at the plate and strong defense, but if he's moved, Wetherholt gets first crack at second base. The Cardinals see a cornerstone for their next contending team up the middle with Wetherholt and Masyn Winn, a sublime fielder at shortstop. Winn gritted through the season with a knee injury that could not keep him from his first Gold Glove but did chew into his offense. Surgery addressed the pain and should help restore his explosiveness, eventually giving the Cardinals two infielders younger than 25 and as deft at delivering doubles as turning double plays.

CORNERS

For the second consecutive winter, the Cardinals sought a new team for Nolan Arenado, knowing the 10-time Gold Glove-winner could veto any trade. Arenado has acknowledged that his career-low production contributed to the Cardinals' shifting priorities. They were successful moving Contreras to a contending Boston team and freeing first base for Alec Burleson, fresh off his Silver Slugger Award. Burleson is the lineup's top returning hitter in average (.290) and RBIs (69) and aims to do more damage befitting a corner spot. Who'll throw to him from third? It could be Arenado, hungry for a bounce-back summer and midseason trade, or Nolan Gorman, who is trying to reassert his power potential. Pending other trades, some officials see Arenado's hot-corner heir in Wetherholt.

ALEC BURLESON

OUTFIELD

Since 2022, the Cardinals' outfield is the least powerful in the NL with a combined .374 slugging percentage and 189 home runs. Both rank 28th in MLB in that span. Slugging slipped further in 2025 to a puny, league-low .334. The Cardinals are doubling down. Jordan Walker, only 23, enters his fourth season in the majors with a clearer feel and detailed plan to unlock his swing and capitalize on his 6-foot-6 frame. The Cardinals insist they must be patient for the 2020 first-round pick's sizable payoff. Gold Glove finalist Victor Scott II wowed in center and also took strides toward improving his on-base abilities to utilize elite speed and a feel for steals. Few players will benefit more from ABS challenges than keen-eyed Lars Nootbaar, whose offseason surgery alleviated chronic foot pain. Teams coveted Nootbaar in trades, but the Cardinals remain reluctant to see another homegrown outfielder go elsewhere and flourish. Donovan will get reps in the outfield if he's not traded.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

LF	Brendan Donovan (L)
C	Iván Herrera (R)
1B	Alec Burleson (L)
3B	Nolan Arenado (R)
RF	Lars Nootbaar (L)
DH	Jordan Walker (R)
SS	Masyn Winn (R)
2B	JJ Wetherholt (L)
CF	Victor Scott II (L)

■ BENCH

INF	Nolan Gorman (L)
C	Pedro Pagés (R)
INF	José Fermín (R)
OF	Bryan Torres (L)

■ ROTATION

RHP	Dustin May
LHP	Matthew Liberatore
RHP	Michael McGreevy
RHP	Richard Fitts
RHP	Kyle Leahy

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Riley O'Brien (C)
RHP	Matt Svanson
LHP	JoJo Romero
RHP	Gordon Graceffo
RHP	Hunter Dobbins
RHP	Andre Pallante
RHP	Ryan Fernandez
RHP	Zak Kent

JEFF CURRY-IMAGN IMAGES

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE CARDINALS "Chaim Bloom has a lot of work to do to restore this franchise. It's head-scratching to go into that ballpark on weekends and it's more than half-empty. It's not about spending money; they still spend the requisite amount on a team of that market size. They're just making boneheaded moves and alienating players. I think the watershed moment was when they fired Mike Shildt; he ran circles around other managers in that division. And while they used to call up guys who'd come up ready to kick the crap out of you, now they call up guys, spit them out and some other team builds them back up. Masyn Winn is an exception — he's excellent at shortstop. But there's just not much to get excited about. Nolan Arenado is a shell of himself now. Matthew Liberatore is finally putting it together as a starter, but I don't know if he's much more than a mid-rotation guy. They gave $12.5 million to Dustin May, just to have a guy who might get you some prospects at the deadline. They just have that look of a team that will get even worse before it gets better."

CATCHING

Ivan Herrera, the team's returning leader with 19 homers, made his pitch in September to remain at catcher, and the Cardinals promised him that chance. Offseason elbow surgery should improve his arm strength and ability to limit the running game, and he spent the winter on a game-management syllabus that the team liked so much it will spread to other levels. Trusted game-caller Pedro Pagés and prospect Jimmy Crooks are poised to share duties if Herrera falters — all while MLB's deepest collection of catching talent rises.

DH/BENCH

If he's not catching, Herrera will mostly DH. Gifted with a spring-loaded, line-drive swing, Herrera could be the 30-homer DH the Cardinals have never had. Walker will spend time at DH as well. The Cardinals sought a right-handed presence to add to a bench that otherwise will be a rotating cast of utility and rising players depending on need. Gorman, Thomas Saggese, newcomer Bryan Torres, César Prieto and José Fermín will all take cameos.

MANAGEMENT

In his opening month atop baseball operations, Bloom chose not to revamp the front office but expand and empower it. Bloom fortified the scouting apparatus by adding new positions and new approaches, including increased input from scouts and integration with analytics. Bloom calculated that the best way to revitalize the organization was through broader player acquisitions at every level — from big-league trades to amateur signings — and a larger, coordinated workforce to identify untapped talents. Manager Oliver Marmol and his staff are key resources in that process. Entering his fifth season, Marmol will no longer be judged on autumn success but measured by summer growth. Marmol and pitching coach Dusty Blake are deft with bullpen strategy and starter use.

FINAL ANALYSIS

Bloom describes this reboot as going retro — back to the Cardinals' roots with a strong farm system that enables them to develop stars and keep them rather than go shopping for them. The plan to contend in the future is inspired by their past. What that means for the present is asking fans to buy into the team's bet that the crowds, like the players and their results, will all grow in time.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

ATTENDANCE WOES The Cardinals, famous for their fan support, saw a precipitous drop in attendance in 2025, down 21.6% in tickets sold. Record-small crowds contributed to a 27,777 per-game average, less than 35,000 in a full-capacity season for the first time in 20 years of Busch Stadium III. The Cardinals have long linked a top-half payroll to robust ticket sales. For the first time since 1980, they were in MLB's lower half for average attendance.

ST. LOUIS RED SOX The first three significant moves of new president of baseball operations Chaim Bloom's tenure all had ties to his former club, Boston. In separate trades, he dealt All-Stars Sonny Gray and Willson Contreras to the Red Sox for a total of five young pitchers, including two starters and prospect Brandon Clarke. The Cardinals included $28 million in cash to increase the talent returning in the trades. The first free-agent signing by Bloom was righthander Dustin May, who finished 2025 with, yes, the Red Sox.

THE REDCOATS ARE COMING Two all-time greats, Albert Pujols and Yadier Molina, will be eligible for induction into the team's Hall of Fame in 2026. Signature-tailored red sport coats await them after a vote of fans in the spring, and a packed ballpark is planned for a late-season ceremony. Three-time MVP Pujols and nine-time Gold Glove winner Molina will appear on the National Baseball Hall of Fame ballot for the first time in December 2027.

Schedule

🟥 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	🟥 26 TB	27	🟥 28 TB
🟥 29 TB	🟥 30 NYM	🟥 31 NYM	🟥 1 NYM	2	▨ 3 DET	▨ 4 DET
▨ 5 DET	▨ 6 WAS	▨ 7 WAS	▨ 8 WAS	9	🟥 10 BOS	🟥 11 BOS
🟥 12 BOS	🟥 13 CLE	🟥 14 CLE	🟥 15 CLE	16	▨ 17 HOU	▨ 18 HOU
▨ 19 HOU	▨ 20 MIA	▨ 21 MIA	▨ 22 MIA	23	🟥 24 SEA	🟥 25 SEA
🟥 26 SEA	▨ 27 PIT	▨ 28 PIT	▨ 29 PIT	▨ 30 PIT		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					🟥 1 LAD	🟥 2 LAD
🟥 3 LAD	🟥 4 MIL	🟥 5 MIL	🟥 6 MIL	▨ 7 SD	▨ 8 SD	▨ 9 SD
▨ 10 SD	11	▨ 12 A's	▨ 13 A's	▨ 14 A's	🟥 15 KC	🟥 16 KC
🟥 17 KC	18	🟥 19 PIT	🟥 20 PIT	🟥 21 PIT	▨ 22 CIN	▨ 23 CIN
▨ 24 CIN	▨ 25 MIL	▨ 26 MIL	▨ 27 MIL	28	🟥 29 CHC	🟥 30 CHC
🟥 31 CHC						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	🟥 1 TEX	🟥 2 TEX	🟥 3 TEX	4	🟥 5 CIN	🟥 6 CIN
🟥 7 CIN	8	▨ 9 NYM	▨ 10 NYM	▨ 11 NYM	▨ 12 MIN	▨ 13 MIN
▨ 14 MIN	🟥 15 SD	🟥 16 SD	🟥 17 SD	▨ 18 KC	▨ 19 KC	20
▨ 21 KC	🟥 22 ARI	🟥 23 ARI	🟥 24 ARI	🟥 25 ARI	🟥 26 MIA	🟥 27 MIA
🟥 28 MIA	29	▨ 30 ATL				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			▨ 1 ATL	▨ 2 ATL	▨ 3 CHC	▨ 4 CHC
▨ 5 CHC	🟥 6 MIL	🟥 7 MIL	🟥 8 MIL	🟥 9 MIL	🟥 10 ATL	🟥 11 ATL
🟥 12 ATL	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	▨ 17 ARI	▨ 18 ARI
▨ 19 ARI	▨ 20 LAA	▨ 21 LAA	▨ 22 LAA	23	🟥 24 CIN	🟥 25 CIN
🟥 26 CIN	🟥 27 CHC	🟥 28 CHC	🟥 29 CHC	🟥 30 CHC	▨ 31 TOR	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						▨ 1 TOR
▨ 2 TOR	▨ 3 NYY	▨ 4 NYY	▨ 5 NYY	6	🟥 7 COL	🟥 8 COL
🟥 9 COL	🟥 10 PHI	🟥 11 PHI	🟥 12 PHI	13	▨ 14 CHC	▨ 15 CHC
▨ 16 CHC	▨ 17 CIN	▨ 18 CIN	▨ 19 CIN	▨ 20 CIN	▨ 21 PHI	▨ 22 PHI
▨ 23 PHI	24	🟥 25 BAL	🟥 26 BAL	🟥 27 BAL	🟥 28 PIT	🟥 29 PIT
🟥 30 PIT	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		▨ 1 LAD	▨ 2 LAD	▨ 3 LAD	▨ 4 COL	▨ 5 COL
▨ 6 COL	▨ 7 SF	▨ 8 SF	▨ 9 SF	10	🟥 11 CWS	🟥 12 CWS
🟥 13 CWS	🟥 14 SF	🟥 15 SF	🟥 16 SF	17	🟥 18 WAS	🟥 19 WAS
🟥 20 WAS	21	▨ 22 PIT	▨ 23 PIT	▨ 24 PIT	▨ 25 MIL	▨ 26 MIL
▨ 27 MIL	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

0 Cardinals with at least 30 homers in any of the past three seasons.

◆

100 Masyn Winn's Rawlings Gold Glove at shortstop in 2025 made the Cardinals the first club with 100 in the award's history.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

JIM RASSOL-IMAGN IMAGES

1. JJ Wetherholt, INF (23) Polished hitter with power is ready for a swing at Rookie of the Year honors.

2. Liam Doyle, LHP (21) Drafted fifth overall out of Tennessee last year; lefty's heat touches 100 mph, and his fiery personality burns.

3. Rainiel Rodriguez, C (19) Impressed big-leaguers with the authority of his bat. Improving as a catcher.

4. Quinn Mathews, LHP (25) Found his footing in an inconsistent 2025. A beguiling talent with strikeout stuff.

5. Joshua Baez, OF (22) 2021 second-rounder has significant middle-order impact potential.

6. Leonardo Bernal, C (22) Most well-rounded in Cards' catching cluster. On the brink of the majors with advanced instincts.

7. Brandon Clarke, LHP (22) Lithe lefty touches 101 mph with fastball, buckles knees with breaking ball.

8. Jimmy Crooks, C (24) Trusted presence behind the plate hints at upside offensively.

9. Yairo Padilla, SS (18) Poise beyond his years and a frame that projects for the highest ceiling.

10. Tekoah Roby, RHP (24) Likely to miss the season recovering from elbow surgery. Sizzling fastball is worth the wait.

Cardinals Roster

President of Baseball Operations: Chaim Bloom • **Manager:** Oliver Marmol • **Coaches:** Brandon Allen (asst. hitting), Dusty Blake (pitching), Brant Brown (hitting), Casey Chenoweth (asst. hitting), Stubby Clapp (first base), Daniel Descalso (bench), Kyle Driscoll (asst. pitching), Packy Elkins (game planning), Jon Jay, Dean Kiekhefer (asst. pitching), Jamie Pogue (assistant/bullpen), Julio Rangel (asst. pitching/bullpen), Ron 'Pop' Warner (third base)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
	Justin Bruihl	L-L	6-2	215	6/26/97	**TORONTO**	**0-0**	**5.27**	**15**	**0**	**0**	**13.2**	**19**	**7**	**18**
						Buffalo (AAA)	3-4	3.43	39	0	3	42.0	32	16	49
	Hunter Dobbins	R-R	6-2	210	8/30/99	**BOSTON**	**4-1**	**4.13**	**13**	**11**	**0**	**61.0**	**61**	**17**	**45**
						Worcester (AAA)	1-0	6.39	3	1	0	12.2	11	6	7
						Portland (AA)	0-0	1.80	1	1	0	5.0	2	0	8
64	Ryan Fernandez	R-R	6-0	200	6/11/98	**ST. LOUIS**	**0-4**	**7.71**	**32**	**0**	**1**	**30.1**	**36**	**16**	**34**
						Memphis (AAA)	4-1	3.12	29	0	2	34.2	23	20	49
	Richard Fitts	R-R	6-3	245	12/17/99	**BOSTON**	**2-4**	**5.00**	**11**	**10**	**0**	**45.0**	**43**	**16**	**40**
						Worcester (AAA)	2-1	4.00	6	6	0	27.0	26	11	25
						Portland (AA)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	3.0	4	0	2
44	Gordon Graceffo	R-R	6-3	225	3/17/00	**ST. LOUIS**	**3-1**	**6.28**	**26**	**0**	**1**	**43.0**	**50**	**13**	**40**
						Memphis (AAA)	2-4	3.77	24	4	2	45.1	45	13	45
65	Andre Granillo	R-R	6-3	250	5/12/00	**ST. LOUIS**	**1-0**	**4.71**	**14**	**0**	**1**	**21.0**	**22**	**7**	**18**
						Memphis (AAA)	5-0	1.29	29	0	2	42.0	21	14	58
30	Tink Hence	R-R	6-1	175	8/6/02	Springfield (AA)	0-0	4.22	3	3	0	10.2	6	6	14
						Peoria (A+)	0-1	4.91	1	1	0	3.2	2	3	1
						Palm Beach (A)	0-0	0.00	3	3	0	6.0	4	3	8
						FCL Cardinals (R)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.0	1	1	1
84	Cooper Hjerpe	L-L	6-2	200	3/16/01	Injured — Missed Season									
62	Kyle Leahy	S-R	6-4	220	6/4/97	**ST. LOUIS**	**4-2**	**3.07**	**62**	**1**	**1**	**88.0**	**80**	**28**	**80**
52	Matthew Liberatore	L-L	6-5	215	11/6/99	**ST. LOUIS**	**8-12**	**4.21**	**29**	**29**	**0**	**151.2**	**158**	**40**	**122**
	Brycen Mautz	L-L	6-4	217	7/17/01	Springfield (AA)	8-3	2.98	25	25	0	114.2	94	33	134
3	Dustin May	R-R	6-6	180	9/6/97	**LOS ANGELES NL**	**6-7**	**4.85**	**19**	**18**	**0**	**104.0**	**97**	**43**	**97**
						BOSTON	**1-4**	**5.40**	**6**	**5**	**0**	**28.1**	**35**	**13**	**26**
36	Michael McGreevy	R-R	6-5	215	7/8/00	**ST. LOUIS**	**8-4**	**4.42**	**17**	**16**	**0**	**95.2**	**100**	**20**	**58**
						Memphis (AAA)	8-3	3.72	15	15	0	75.0	78	15	78
55	Riley O'Brien	R-R	6-4	185	2/6/95	**ST. LOUIS**	**3-1**	**2.06**	**42**	**0**	**6**	**48.0**	**33**	**22**	**45**
						Memphis (AAA)	1-0	2.79	19	0	3	19.1	16	8	32
53	Andre Pallante	R-R	6-0	220	9/18/98	**ST. LOUIS**	**6-15**	**5.31**	**31**	**31**	**0**	**162.2**	**173**	**62**	**111**
	Matt Pushard	R-R	6-4	250	10/27/97	Jacksonville (AAA)	4-5	3.61	49	1	4	62.1	49	23	73
70	Nick Raquet	R-L	6-0	214	12/12/95	**ST. LOUIS**	**0-0**	**0.00**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2.0**	**0**	**1**	**1**
						Memphis (AAA)	2-3	5.19	14	0	3	17.1	16	6	22
						Springfield (AA)	8-1	0.77	25	0	5	35.0	29	6	38
38	Tekoah Roby	R-R	6-0	210	9/18/01	Memphis (AAA)	3-2	4.02	6	6	0	31.1	33	8	30
						Springfield (AA)	4-2	2.49	10	10	0	47.0	34	11	57
59	JoJo Romero	L-L	5-11	210	9/9/96	**ST. LOUIS**	**4-6**	**2.07**	**65**	**0**	**8**	**61.0**	**47**	**29**	**55**
58	Chris Roycroft	R-R	6-7	240	6/21/97	**ST. LOUIS**	**1-3**	**7.84**	**20**	**0**	**0**	**20.2**	**26**	**12**	**15**
						Memphis (AAA)	3-2	4.82	35	0	5	46.2	50	24	47
49	Matt Svanson	R-R	6-5	245	1/31/99	**ST. LOUIS**	**4-0**	**1.94**	**39**	**0**	**0**	**60.1**	**33**	**20**	**68**
						Memphis (AAA)	1-0	3.32	15	0	1	21.2	26	9	22

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
96	Leonardo Bernal	S-R	6-0	245	2/13/04	Springfield (AA)	.247	107	396	58	98	13	70	49	77	13
8	Jimmy Crooks	L-R	6-0	240	7/19/01	**ST. LOUIS**	**.133**	**15**	**45**	**3**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**17**	**0**
						Memphis (AAA)	.274	98	390	61	107	14	79	36	114	0
48	Iván Herrera	R-R	6-0	220	6/1/00	**ST. LOUIS**	**.284**	**107**	**388**	**54**	**110**	**19**	**66**	**43**	**84**	**8**
						Memphis (AAA)	.433	8	30	6	13	1	5	0	8	2
43	Pedro Pagés	R-R	6-0	245	9/17/98	**ST. LOUIS**	**.230**	**112**	**361**	**38**	**83**	**11**	**45**	**19**	**107**	**0**
63	Yohel Pozo	R-R	6-0	262	6/14/97	**ST. LOUIS**	**.231**	**67**	**160**	**16**	**37**	**5**	**19**	**7**	**22**	**0**
						Memphis (AAA)	.333	5	21	7	7	2	6	0	2	1

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
28	Nolan Arenado	R-R	6-2	215	4/16/91	**ST. LOUIS**	**.237**	**107**	**401**	**48**	**95**	**12**	**52**	**28**	**49**	**3**
						Springfield (AA)	.077	4	13	2	1	0	0	0	3	0
41	Alec Burleson	L-L	6-0	225	11/25/98	**ST. LOUIS**	**.290**	**139**	**497**	**54**	**144**	**18**	**69**	**39**	**79**	**5**
33	Brendan Donovan	L-R	6-0	215	1/16/97	**ST. LOUIS**	**.287**	**118**	**460**	**64**	**132**	**10**	**50**	**42**	**67**	**3**
						Springfield (AA)	.000	2	4	1	0	0	0	3	1	0
15	José Fermín	R-R	5-10	200	3/29/99	**ST. LOUIS**	**.283**	**30**	**60**	**5**	**17**	**1**	**9**	**8**	**10**	**2**
						Memphis (AAA)	.300	65	237	47	71	7	40	45	25	20
16	Nolan Gorman	L-R	6-0	225	5/10/00	**ST. LOUIS**	**.205**	**111**	**351**	**48**	**72**	**14**	**46**	**47**	**136**	**1**
						Springfield (AA)	.231	3	13	1	3	1	2	0	4	0
31	César Prieto	L-R	5-9	195	5/10/99	**ST. LOUIS**	**.167**	**3**	**6**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**0**
						Memphis (AAA)	.300	121	460	79	138	9	71	39	70	12
25	Thomas Saggese	R-R	6-0	190	4/10/02	**ST. LOUIS**	**.258**	**82**	**275**	**25**	**71**	**2**	**25**	**16**	**83**	**3**
						Memphis (AAA)	.317	42	164	34	52	5	24	23	45	5
0	Masyn Winn	R-R	5-10	180	3/21/02	**ST. LOUIS**	**.253**	**129**	**491**	**72**	**124**	**9**	**51**	**34**	**102**	**9**
						Memphis (AAA)	.182	3	11	2	2	2	2	2	5	0

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
16	Joshua Baez	R-R	6-3	242	6/28/03	Springfield (AA)	.271	79	273	46	74	16	55	41	67	34
						Peoria (A+)	.317	38	145	32	46	4	24	18	36	20
27	Nathan Church	L-L	5-10	200	7/12/00	**ST. LOUIS**	**.179**	**27**	**56**	**9**	**10**	**1**	**8**	**3**	**18**	**1**
						Memphis (AAA)	.335	53	215	43	72	7	30	24	25	9
						Springfield (AA)	.336	29	119	21	40	6	19	8	10	6
						Palm Beach (A)	.154	4	13	3	2	0	1	1	2	1
21	Lars Nootbaar	L-R	6-2	210	9/8/97	**ST. LOUIS**	**.234**	**135**	**509**	**68**	**119**	**13**	**48**	**64**	**119**	**4**
						Springfield (AA)	.286	3	14	1	4	0	1	0	4	0
11	Victor Scott II	L-L	5-10	190	2/12/01	**ST. LOUIS**	**.216**	**138**	**398**	**54**	**86**	**5**	**37**	**42**	**111**	**34**
						Springfield (AA)	.125	3	8	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
	Bryan Torres	L-R	5-9	180	7/2/97	Memphis (AAA)	.328	104	332	58	109	9	51	70	57	26
18	Jordan Walker	R-R	6-6	270	5/22/02	**ST. LOUIS**	**.215**	**111**	**363**	**40**	**78**	**6**	**41**	**29**	**126**	**10**
						Memphis (AAA)	.250	4	16	2	4	0	5	1	6	0
						Springfield (AA)	.158	10	38	5	6	2	4	5	12	1

Arizona DIAMONDBACKS

2026 PREDICTION
4TH
NL WEST
2025 FINISH: 4TH (80-82)

The Diamondbacks plan to return to contention in the ever-challenging NL West after surviving an abundance of season-ending injuries to high-end contributors a year ago. Arizona has finished in the top six in the majors in runs in each of the past two seasons and will always be an offensive threat as long as the best-in-class top of the lineup — Geraldo Perdomo, Ketel Marte and Corbin Carroll — remain, and all are locked up through 2030. The D-backs' team speed and aggressiveness play well at Chase Field. Bringing back starter Merrill Kelly was a big deal. The league knows him even if the average observer does not.

CORBIN CARROLL

JOE RONDONE/THE REPUBLIC

ROTATION

Kelly returns to lead the rotation after a trade-deadline stop in Texas a year ago. Chronically underpaid after joining the D-backs from the KBO in 2009, Kelly signed a two-year, $40 million free-agent deal that includes a $12 million vesting option for 2028 to return to the place he calls home. Righthanders Brandon Pfaadt and Ryne Nelson, lefthander Eduardo Rodriguez and righthander Michael Soroka fill out the rotation. A strike-thrower who hits his spots with a multiple mix, Kelly has won at least 12 games in three of the last four seasons. Pfaadt, who signed a team-friendly five-year, $45 million deal last spring, turned to his sweeper as the 2025 season progressed and finished with a career-high 13 wins while leading the NL with 1.9 walks per nine innings. Fastball-reliant Nelson stepped into the void created by Corbin Burnes's season-ending shoulder injury in June and was more than capable, going 6-3 with a 3.16 ERA and a .219 opponents' batting average in 23 starts. Rodriguez will have another chance to live up to the four-year, $80 million free-agent deal he signed before the 2024 season. Soroka, an All-Star with Atlanta as a rookie in 2019, missed almost three years with two Achilles tears and has been working his way back. Burnes, who underwent Tommy John surgery in June 2025, is shooting for a midseason return.

BULLPEN

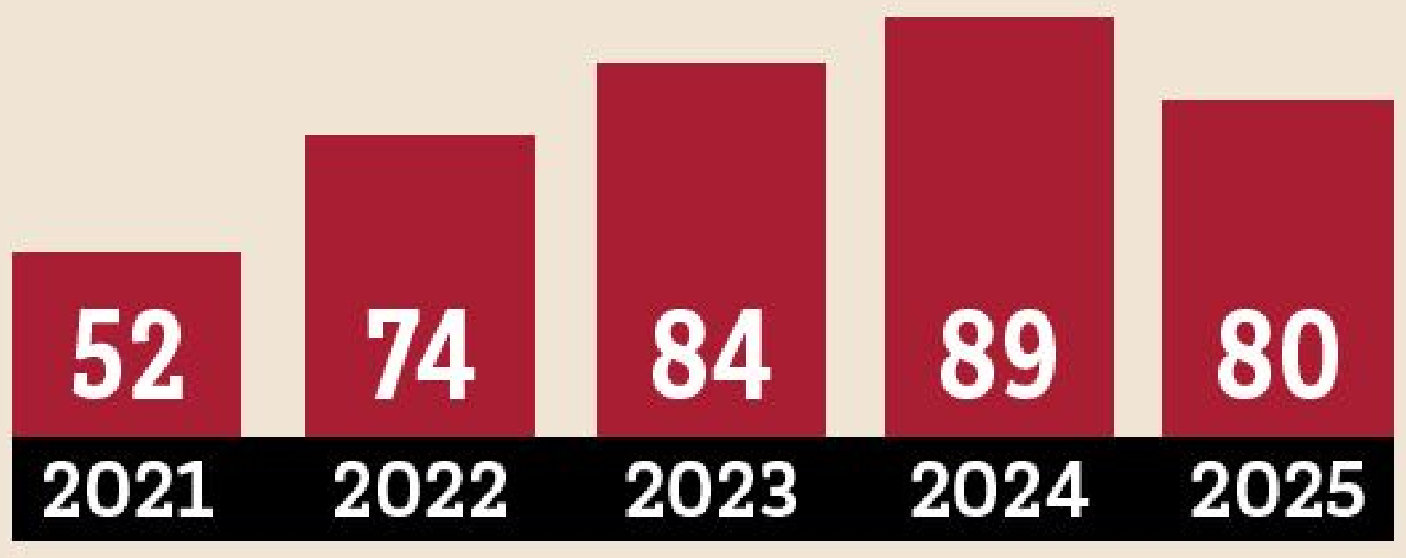
Lefthander Andrew Saalfrank will open the season as the top contender to close in a bullpen that went through a major upheaval last year. A changeup specialist, Saalfrank converted three of four late-season save chances and finished with a 1.24 ERA in a small sample size. He was the next man up after injuries claimed Justin Martinez, A.J. Puk and Kevin Ginkel before Shelby Miller was traded. Ginkel, who has 12 saves in the past three years, missed the final two months with a right shoulder strain but is expected back in spring training. Top setup man Ryan Thompson relies on a sweeper that induced a 35.1% chase percentage, fourth among NL relievers who faced at least 100 batters. John Curtiss, one of 17 D-backs relievers to record a save last season (a major league record), re-signed to a minor-league deal in the offseason. Lefthander Brandyn Garcia, whose fastball touches 99 mph, was the big get in the deadline deal that sent Josh Naylor to Seattle. Andrew Hoffman, a deadline acquisition from Kansas City, also has a big arm and will look to harness his command. Juan Morillo is in the same boat. His fastball averaged 99 mph in his rookie season, but he walked 20 in 34.1 innings. Rookie lefty Philip Abner made a strong first impression,

Chase Field

Opened: 1998 • Capacity: 48,330
Left: 330′ Center: 407′ Right: 334′
Tickets: 602-514-8400
mlb.com/DBACKS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Highest run value for hitters on pitches in the shadow of the strike zone, 2025

1.	**Ketel Marte, Diamondbacks**	**13**
T2.	Juan Soto, Mets	9
T2.	Mike Trout, Angels	9
4.	José Ramírez, Guardians	8
5.	Trent Grisham, Yankees	7

striking out Kyle Schwarber as the first batter he faced following a September callup. Both Martinez (Tommy John) and Puk (internal brace surgery) are not expected back until midseason.

MIDDLE INFIELD

It is not a stretch to say that Arizona has the best middle infield in the majors in second baseman Marte and shortstop Perdomo. Marte disappointed some teammates when he left the team for a few days last July, but his on-field play is unimpeachable. He has averaged 30 homers and 83 RBIs the last three seasons and had 28 homers, 72 RBIs and an .893 OPS despite missing a month with a hamstring injury a year ago. Perdomo has matured into one of the most efficient hitters in the majors and was one of two qualified batters with more walks than strikeouts a year ago, joining Luis Arraez. The switch-hitting Perdomo shattered career highs in doubles (33), homers (20), runs (98), RBIs (94) and stolen bases (27) while working his way to the top of the lineup.

KETEL MARTE

CORNERS

Blaze Alexander brings a bazooka-like arm into his first season as a full-time third baseman after enduring a trial by fire at the spot over the final two months following the trade of Eugenio Suárez at the deadline. Alexander set career highs in virtually every offensive category, and his future seems as bright as his effervescent personality. Right-handed-hitting Tyler Locklear and lefty Pavin Smith are the first-base options for a team that likes to play matchups. Locklear scuffled after arriving from Seattle in the Suárez deal, and the D-backs are hoping the pop he showed in the high minor leagues will translate.

OUTFIELD

Right fielder Carroll joined a cadre of elite run producers with his latest breakout season a year ago, when he continued to add to a résumé that includes the 2023 NL Rookie of the Year award, two All-Star games, two top-six finishes in the NL MVP race and a Silver Slugger Award. He tweaked his swing to add power, and it worked. In 2025, he became the 10th player in major league history with 30 doubles, 15 triples and 30 home runs in a season, and his 30-homer, 30-stolen base season was the first in franchise history. His range played, too, with eight defensive runs saved, according to Baseball Reference. Center fielder Alek Thomas and left fielder Jorge Barrosa have the speed necessary to handle spacious Chase Field, and Barrosa adds another switch-hitter to the lineup. Thomas had career highs with 19 doubles and nine homers. Nominal starting left fielder Lourdes Gurriel Jr. suffered a torn ACL in his right knee in September and is expected to miss a major portion of the season.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

SS	Geraldo Perdomo (S)
2B	Ketel Marte (S)
RF	Corbin Carroll (L)
C	Gabriel Moreno (R)
DH	Pavin Smith (L)
3B	Blaze Alexander (R)
1B	Tyler Locklear (R)
CF	Alek Thomas (L)
LF	Jorge Barrosa (S)

■ BENCH

C	James McCann (R)
INF/OF	Jordan Lawlar (R)
INF/OF	Tim Tawa (R)
C/DH	Adrian Del Castillo (L)

■ ROTATION

RHP	Merrill Kelly
RHP	Brandon Pfaadt
LHP	Eduardo Rodriguez
RHP	Ryne Nelson
RHP	Michael Soroka

■ BULLPEN

LHP	Andrew Saalfrank (C)
RHP	Kevin Ginkel
RHP	Ryan Thompson
LHP	Brandyn Garcia
RHP	John Curtiss
RHP	Juan Morillo
RHP	Andrew Hoffman
LHP	Philip Abner

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE DIAMONDBACKS "Geraldo Perdomo is their leader, and they go as he goes. It's great to see him getting some recognition for the all-around stud he is. With Perdomo, Corbin Carroll and Gabriel Moreno, they really have an excellent core that should be together for a long time. They just need to keep Moreno on the field. They should move Jordan Lawler to the outfield, though; he's still got a long way to go. Rotation-wise, they'll be fine. Merrill Kelly is a steady, solid pro, Ryne Nelson has been good for a couple of years now and Brandon Pfaadt always takes the ball; he's just got to scrap the cutter because it cost him the effectiveness of his two-seamer. I don't love the Michael Soroka signing — he's still young, but he's been hurt all his life. Their bullpen fell apart last year, and I don't think they've done enough to address that."

RICK SCUTERI-IMAGN IMAGES

CATCHING

Gabriel Moreno has established himself as the long-term solution behind the plate, setting career highs with nine homers and a .786 OPS a year ago. Don't blame the D-backs for wondering how those numbers would look if Moreno was healthy for a full year. He has never had more than 341 at-bats in his three seasons as a starter. He missed nine weeks with a fractured finger a year ago.

DH/BENCH

Smith will play first or DH against most righthanders after hitting all eight of his homers and posting an .817 OPS against righties a year ago. Veteran catcher James McCann was a life-saver after Arizona claimed him off waivers in June — five homers, two defensive runs saved and a two-strike sac bunt that helped beat the Dodgers down the stretch. The D-backs believe in Jordan Lawlar's bat and want to get him more work, although his natural shortstop position is blocked. He played 12 games at third, six as the DH and five at second a year ago. Tim Tawa also provides the versatility that manager Torey Lovullo prizes. Tawa played every position but catcher and shortstop in his rookie season and showed surprising power. Third catcher Adrian Del Castillo is a DH candidate vs. righties.

MANAGEMENT

Managing general partner Ken Kendrick has never been afraid to spend, either in free agency (Burnes) or with midseason moves to enhance a playoff push. General manager Mike Hazen made the appropriate, prudent moves when he traded free-agents-to-be Suárez, Naylor, Kelly, Randal Grichuk and others at the 2025 deadline, but that by no means signaled a divergence from his or the organization's do-what-it-takes-to-compete-now mentality.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Diamondbacks lived Scottish poet Robert Burns' famous line about the best-laid schemes of mice and men in 2025, building for a season that injuries ruined. That was then. The D-backs have enough offense and enough starting pitching. If the bullpen delivers, watch out.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

DOWN MEXICO WAY The Diamondbacks will make their first regular-season appearance in Mexico in the resumption of MLB's Mexico City series in April, when they meet the San Diego Padres in a two-game series at Mexico City's Estadio Alfredo Harp Helú on April 25-26. Arizona is the designated home team in the third incarnation of the series. San Diego and San Francisco played in the initial Mexico City series in 2023, and Houston and Colorado met in 2024. The D-backs have played exhibition games in their neighbor to the south since 1998, the franchise's first season.

GERRY-MANDERING Shortstop Geraldo Perdomo's breakout 2025 season included several league and franchise bests. Perdomo had a career-high 7.0 WAR as calculated by Baseball Reference, ranking No. 1 in the National League and fourth in the majors. His 7.1 bWAR per FanGraphs was second in the NL to Shohei Ohtani. With an RBI on the final day of the season, Perdomo became the first shortstop in franchise history with a 20-homer, 100-RBI campaign.

BUILD BACK BETTER Arizona House Bill 2704, signed into law last June, established a public/private funding mechanism to modernize and renovate Chase Field, home to the Diamondbacks in downtown Phoenix since the franchise's inception in 1998. The D-backs' lease was set to expire in 2027. Sales taxes from Chase Field and other nearby facilities as well as state income taxes from some team employees will be used in the funding. Public funds are capped at $500 million, which can be adjusted for inflation. Chase Field is tied for the 11th-oldest park in the majors.

Schedule

🟥 HOME ⬜ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 ⬜ LAD	27 ⬜ LAD	28 ⬜ LAD
29	30 🟥 DET	31 🟥 DET	1 🟥 DET	2 🟥 ATL	3 🟥 ATL	4 🟥 ATL
5 🟥 ATL	6	7 ⬜ NYM	8 ⬜ NYM	9 ⬜ NYM	10 ⬜ PHI	11 ⬜ PHI
12 ⬜ PHI	13 ⬜ BAL	14 ⬜ BAL	15 ⬜ BAL	16	17 🟥 TOR	18 🟥 TOR
19 🟥 TOR	20	21 🟥 CWS	22 🟥 CWS	23 🟥 CWS	24	25 🟥 SD
26 🟥 SD	27	28 ⬜ MIL	29 ⬜ MIL	30 ⬜ MIL		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ⬜ CHC	2 ⬜ CHC
3 ⬜ CHC	4	5 🟥 PIT	6 🟥 PIT	7 🟥 PIT	8 🟥 NYM	9 🟥 NYM
10 🟥 NYM	11 ⬜ TEX	12 ⬜ TEX	13 ⬜ TEX	14	15 ⬜ COL	16 ⬜ COL
17 ⬜ COL	18 🟥 SF	19 🟥 SF	20 🟥 SF	21 🟥 COL	22 🟥 COL	23 🟥 COL
24 🟥 COL	25 ⬜ SF	26 ⬜ SF	27 ⬜ SF	28	29 ⬜ SEA	30 ⬜ SEA
31 ⬜ SEA						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 🟥 LAD	2 🟥 LAD	3 🟥 LAD	4 🟥 LAD	5 🟥 WAS	6 🟥 WAS
7 🟥 WAS	8	9 ⬜ MIA	10 ⬜ MIA	11 ⬜ MIA	12 ⬜ CIN	13 ⬜ CIN
14 ⬜ CIN	15 🟥 LAA	16 🟥 LAA	17 🟥 LAA	18	19 🟥 MIN	20 🟥 MIN
21 🟥 MIN	22 ⬜ STL	23 ⬜ STL	24 ⬜ STL	25 ⬜ STL	26 ⬜ TB	27 ⬜ TB
28 ⬜ TB	29 🟥 SF	30 🟥 SF				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 🟥 SF	2	3 🟥 MIL	4 🟥 MIL
5 🟥 MIL	6 ⬜ SD	7 ⬜ SD	8 ⬜ SD	9 ⬜ SD	10 ⬜ LAD	11 ⬜ LAD
12 ⬜ LAD	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 🟥 STL	18 🟥 STL
19 🟥 STL	20 🟥 A's	21 🟥 A's	22 🟥 A's	23	24 ⬜ WAS	25 ⬜ WAS
26 ⬜ WAS	27 ⬜ PIT	28 ⬜ PIT	29 ⬜ PIT	30	31 ⬜ CLE	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 ⬜ CLE
2 ⬜ CLE	3 🟥 SD	4 🟥 SD	5 🟥 SD	6 🟥 SD	7 🟥 LAD	8 🟥 LAD
9 🟥 LAD	10 🟥 COL	11 🟥 COL	12 🟥 COL	13	14 ⬜ ATL	15 ⬜ ATL
16 ⬜ ATL	17 ⬜ BOS	18 ⬜ BOS	19 ⬜ BOS	20	21 🟥 CIN	22 🟥 CIN
23 🟥 CIN	24 🟥 CHC	25 🟥 CHC	26 🟥 CHC	27 ⬜ SF	28 ⬜ SF	29 ⬜ SF
30 ⬜ SF	31 🟥 PHI					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 🟥 PHI	2 🟥 PHI	3	4 ⬜ HOU	5 ⬜ HOU
6 ⬜ HOU	7 ⬜ KC	8 ⬜ KC	9 ⬜ KC	10	11 🟥 TEX	12 🟥 TEX
13 🟥 TEX	14 🟥 MIA	15 🟥 MIA	16 🟥 MIA	17	18 🟥 NYY	19 🟥 NYY
20 🟥 NYY	21	22 ⬜ COL	23 ⬜ COL	24 ⬜ COL	25 ⬜ SD	26 ⬜ SD
27 ⬜ SD	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

65 Players used a year ago, a franchise record.

◆

5 Victories by the D-backs after trailing by four-plus runs in 2025, most in the majors since Cleveland (six) in 1999.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

JORDAN PRATHER-USA TODAY SPORTS

1. Ryan Waldschmidt, OF (23) Showed elite power, speed and strike zone awareness in his first full season.

2. Slade Caldwell, OF (19) 2024 first-round pick couples base-stealing speed and a nice batting eye.

3. Tommy Troy, 2B (24) Finally injury-free, he put together a solid season between Double-A and Triple-A.

4. Kayson Cunningham, SS (19) USA Baseball's 2024 Player of the Year has speed, energy and a mature hitting approach.

5. Kohl Drake, LHP (25) 6-foot-5 strike-thrower had two strong seasons in the Rangers' system before being part of the Merrill Kelly trade.

6. Cristian Mena, RHP (23) Pitched 3.2 scoreless innings against the Dodgers in June in the first of three big-league appearances.

7. Daniel Eagen, RHP (23) Eagen developed a changeup to add to his mid-90s fastball/curveball mix.

8. David Hagaman, RHP (22) Hagaman made solid strides after an internal brace procedure delayed his pro debut until last June.

9. Demetrio Crisantes, INF (21) Limited to 34 games because of a shoulder injury in 2025, Crisantes could rise quickly.

10. Carlos Virahonda, C (20) A hit-first backstop who showed an above-average arm and aptitude.

Diamondbacks Roster

General Manager: Mike Hazen • **Manager:** Torey Lovullo • **Coaches:** Jeff Banister (bench), Wellington Cepeda (bullpen), Travis Denker (asst. hitting), Owen Dew (asst. pitching), Damion Easley (asst. hitting), J.R. House (third base and catching), Brian Kaplan (pitching), Shaun Larkin (infield), Joe Mather (hitting), Dave McKay (first base)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
50	Philip Abner	L-L	6-1	230	5/5/02	**ARIZONA**	0-0	4.91	5	0	0	3.2	5	3	5
						Reno (AAA)	0-0	0.00	8	0	1	8.1	2	3	11
						Amarillo (AA)	3-1	4.21	34	0	1	36.1	35	7	42
						Hillsboro (A+)	0-1	1.93	11	0	5	14.0	9	6	17
60	Mitch Bratt	L-L	6-1	190	7/3/03	Amarillo (AA)	1-1	3.98	6	6	0	31.2	31	5	42
						Frisco (AA)	6-3	3.18	18	17	0	90.2	91	16	106
52	Juan Burgos	R-R	6-0	185	12/22/99	**ARIZONA**	1-1	8.10	9	0	0	6.2	10	6	6
						Reno (AAA)	0-0	8.31	4	0	0	4.1	7	3	3
						SEATTLE	0-0	4.05	4	0	0	6.2	7	2	8
						Tacoma (AAA)	1-0	3.00	4	0	0	3.0	4	2	2
						Arkansas (AA)	2-1	0.64	21	0	3	28.0	10	7	29
39	Corbin Burnes	R-R	6-3	245	10/22/94	**ARIZONA**	3-2	2.66	11	11	0	64.1	49	26	63
46	John Curtiss	R-R	6-5	220	4/5/93	**ARIZONA**	3-2	3.93	30	0	1	36.2	29	5	24
						Reno (AAA)	1-1	6.34	25	1	2	32.2	38	9	28
45	Yilber Díaz	R-R	6-0	190	8/19/00	**ARIZONA**	0-0	9.00	1	0	0	3.0	4	3	1
						Reno (AAA)	1-3	11.63	21	8	0	41.0	39	64	49
						Amarillo (AA)	0-0	6.43	13	0	0	14.0	16	9	16
						ACL D-backs (R)	0-0	9.00	1	0	0	2.0	2	0	5
58	Kohl Drake	L-L	6-5	220	7/17/00	Reno (AAA)	1-2	9.18	4	4	0	16.2	24	8	19
						Round Rock (AAA)	1-1	5.19	4	3	0	17.1	20	6	17
						Frisco (AA)	4-3	2.44	12	12	0	55.1	32	22	70
55	Brandyn Garcia	L-L	6-4	235	5/27/00	**ARIZONA**	0-2	5.84	12	0	0	12.1	14	5	13
						Reno (AAA)	1-1	3.27	6	0	0	11.0	7	8	13
						SEATTLE	0-0	4.50	2	0	0	2.0	4	3	1
						Tacoma (AAA)	1-0	2.16	8	0	0	8.1	9	5	9
						Arkansas (AA)	4-4	3.96	24	0	5	25.0	20	12	33
37	Kevin Ginkel	L-R	6-4	235	3/24/94	**ARIZONA**	1-4	7.36	29	0	3	25.2	29	13	29
						Reno (AAA)	0-0	6.75	6	0	0	4.0	5	7	5
56	Andrew Hoffmann	R-R	6-5	210	2/2/00	**ARIZONA**	1-1	7.36	8	0	0	7.1	7	6	7
						Reno (AAA)	0-1	19.29	3	0	0	2.1	5	3	2
						KANSAS CITY	0-0	3.86	3	0	0	4.2	7	4	5
						Omaha (AAA)	3-3	2.25	32	0	2	40.0	35	10	55
99	Drey Jameson	R-R	6-0	165	8/17/97	**ARIZONA**	0-1	3.00	3	0	1	3.0	4	3	0
						Reno (AAA)	0-1	7.11	14	0	0	12.2	20	8	19
29	Merrill Kelly	R-R	6-2	202	10/14/88	**ARIZONA**	9-6	3.22	22	22	0	128.2	98	38	121
						TEXAS	3-3	4.23	10	10	0	55.1	59	10	46
63	Justin Martinez	R-R	6-3	180	7/30/01	**ARIZONA**	1-2	4.11	17	0	5	15.1	7	12	22
64	Cristian Mena	R-R	6-2	170	12/21/02	**ARIZONA**	1-0	1.35	3	0	0	6.2	3	3	8
						Reno (AAA)	2-3	4.84	9	9	0	44.2	46	16	52
67	Juan Morillo	R-R	6-1	150	3/19/99	**ARIZONA**	0-3	4.19	42	0	1	34.1	38	20	36
						Reno (AAA)	1-1	2.57	21	0	2	21.0	18	9	20
19	Ryne Nelson	R-R	6-3	184	2/1/98	**ARIZONA**	7-3	3.39	33	23	1	154.0	124	41	132
32	Brandon Pfaadt	R-R	6-4	220	10/15/98	**ARIZONA**	13-9	5.25	33	33	0	176.2	198	37	147
33	A.J. Puk	L-L	6-7	248	4/25/95	**ARIZONA**	0-0	3.38	8	0	4	8.0	8	2	12
61	Dylan Ray	R-R	6-3	230	5/9/01	Reno (AAA)	6-3	6.30	18	18	0	90.0	107	38	70
						Amarillo (AA)	6-3	3.93	10	10	0	50.1	38	17	53
57	Eduardo Rodriguez	L-L	6-2	231	4/7/93	**ARIZONA**	9-9	5.02	29	29	0	154.1	178	60	143
						ACL D-backs (R)	0-1	5.79	1	1	0	4.2	3	1	9
27	Andrew Saalfrank	L-L	6-3	205	8/18/97	**ARIZONA**	2-1	1.24	28	0	3	29.0	19	10	19
						Reno (AAA)	0-2	7.15	10	0	2	11.1	6	10	14
						ACL D-backs (R)	0-0	21.60	2	0	0	1.2	4	3	1
34	Michael Soroka	R-R	6-5	250	8/4/97	**CHICAGO NL**	0-0	1.08	6	1	0	8.1	4	5	8
						WASHINGTON	3-8	4.87	16	16	0	81.1	68	24	87
81	Ryan Thompson	R-R	6-5	210	6/26/92	**ARIZONA**	3-2	3.92	48	0	1	41.1	42	13	36
						Reno (AAA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	0	2.0	1	0	1
47	Gus Varland	L-R	6-1	225	11/6/96	Charlotte (AAA)	0-0	5.06	7	0	0	5.1	5	5	9
						ACL White Sox (R)	0-0	9.00	1	1	0	1.0	2	1	2
48	Blake Walston	L-L	6-5	175	6/28/01	Injured — Missed Season									

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
25	Adrian Del Castillo	L-R	5-10	208	9/27/99	**ARIZONA**	.242	44	120	9	29	4	17	8	47	0
						Reno (AAA)	.288	14	59	13	17	4	16	10	19	0
						ACL D-backs (R)	.313	14	48	14	15	3	11	10	17	0
8	James McCann	R-R	6-3	235	6/13/90	**ARIZONA**	.260	42	123	18	32	5	17	8	33	0
						Gwinnett (AAA)	.297	41	148	19	44	6	30	9	41	0
						Columbus (AA)	.667	1	3	0	2	0	2	1	0	1
14	Gabriel Moreno	R-R	5-9	195	2/14/00	**ARIZONA**	.285	83	277	44	79	9	40	29	53	2
						Reno (AAA)	.400	6	20	4	8	2	4	3	5	0

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
9	Blaze Alexander	R-R	6-0	160	6/11/99	**ARIZONA**	.230	74	230	31	53	7	28	22	86	4
						Reno (AAA)	.284	54	194	41	55	8	41	38	59	11
79	Jose Fernandez	R-R	6-3	165	9/22/03	Amarillo (AA)	.272	122	471	68	128	17	80	32	104	12
10	Jordan Lawlar	R-R	6-0	190	7/17/02	**ARIZONA**	.182	28	66	9	12	0	5	6	26	2
						Reno (AAA)	.313	63	259	52	81	11	50	36	70	20
28	Tyler Locklear	R-R	6-2	210	11/24/00	**ARIZONA**	.175	31	103	11	18	3	6	10	43	3
						Tacoma (AAA)	.316	98	373	70	118	19	82	47	95	18
4	Ketel Marte	S-R	6-0	210	10/12/93	**ARIZONA**	.283	126	480	87	136	28	72	64	83	4
2	Geraldo Perdomo	S-R	6-2	203	10/22/99	**ARIZONA**	.290	161	597	98	173	20	100	94	83	27
26	Pavin Smith	L-L	6-2	208	2/6/96	**ARIZONA**	.258	87	244	36	63	8	28	41	92	2
						Reno (AAA)	.267	4	15	3	4	0	1	2	6	0
13	Tim Tawa	R-R	5-11	196	4/7/99	**ARIZONA**	.201	74	199	29	40	7	18	20	64	8
						Reno (AAA)	.238	18	63	10	15	3	15	11	13	2

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1	Jorge Barrosa	S-L	5-6	165	2/17/01	**ARIZONA**	.141	33	71	8	10	1	7	2	22	0
						Reno (AAA)	.294	93	394	67	116	7	58	54	95	10
7	Corbin Carroll	L-L	5-10	165	8/21/00	**ARIZONA**	.259	143	564	107	146	31	84	67	153	32
12	Lourdes Gurriel Jr.	R-R	6-3	215	10/10/93	**ARIZONA**	.248	129	500	52	124	19	80	31	76	10
5	Alek Thomas	L-L	5-9	175	4/28/00	**ARIZONA**	.249	143	433	51	108	9	38	21	122	7

Colorado ROCKIES

2026 PREDICTION
5TH
NL WEST
2025 FINISH: 5TH (43-119)

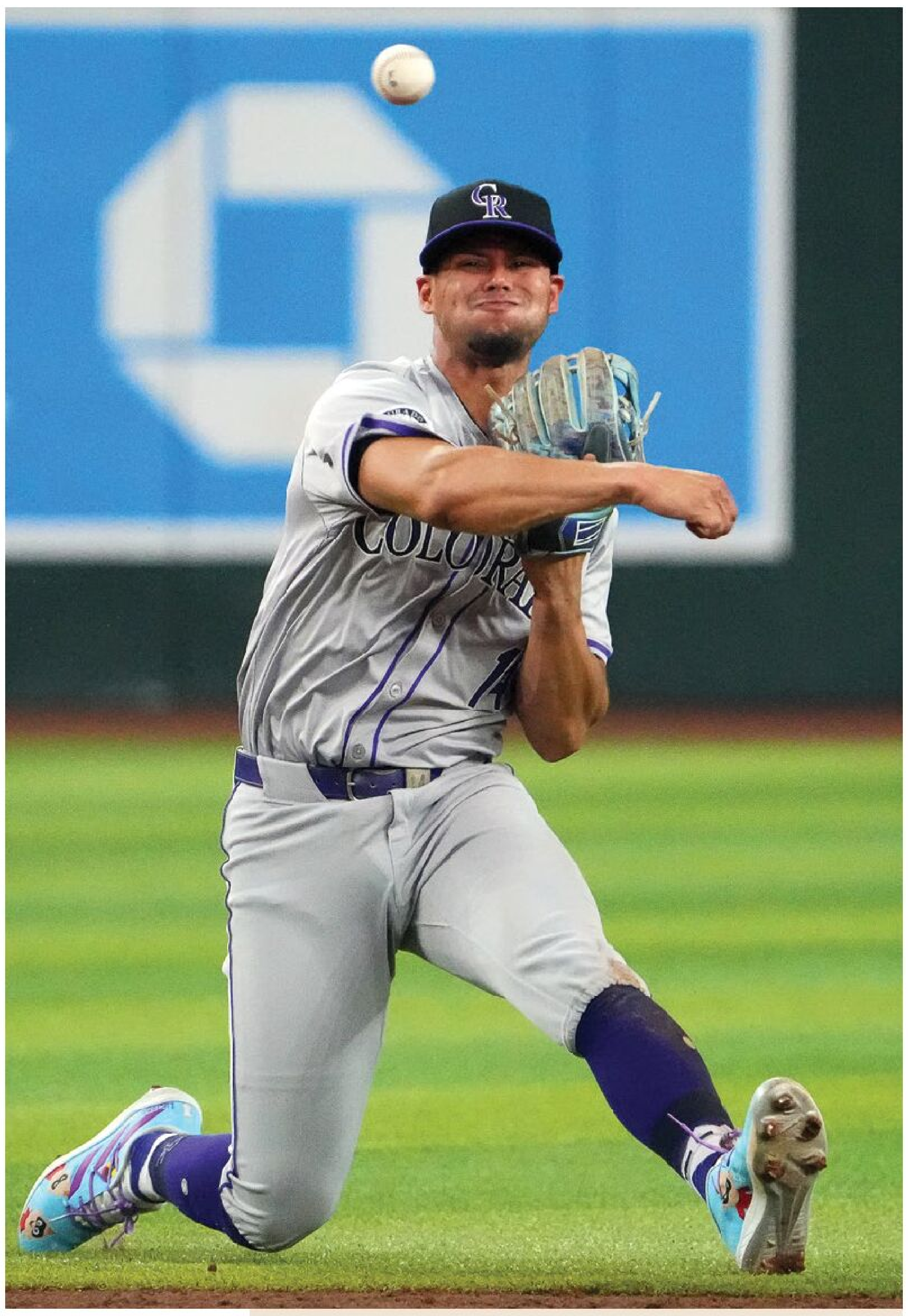
Change is good — and, in this case, necessary and long overdue. Co-owner Charlie Monfort installed his son, Walker Monfort, to oversee a franchise rebuild for a team that has lost 100-plus games in each of the past three seasons, and Walker moved quickly to add new president of baseball operations Paul DePodesta, who called himself a "sucker for a challenge" when he was hired, and new second-in-command Josh Byrnes. Byrnes was the Rockies' assistant general manager (2000-02) and later the architect of the Arizona Diamondbacks' 2007 NL West title team. The Rockies retained enthusiastic manager Warren Schaeffer after he replaced Bud Black 40 games (and 33 losses) into a 2025 season in which the Rockies finished 43-119 and threatened the major league record for losses (121). Colorado fell out of relevance following the 2020 COVID-19 season and has not recovered. The reboot begins now.

ROTATION

Lefthander Kyle Freeland, a Denver native, will anchor a rotation that was plagued by injuries and ineffectiveness a year ago. Colorado used 12 starting pitchers, and the staff could be expected to take a natural step forward with health after giving up 1,021 runs, the most in the majors since the Rockies yielded 1,028 in 1999. Freeland, who holds the franchise record for starts (231) and quality starts (111), is not afraid to challenge hitters. He enters the season with a streak of 64 consecutive starts issuing three walks or fewer. Righthanders Michael Lorezen, Chase Dollander, Ryan Feltner and Tanner Gordon occupy the next four slots, with McCade Brown, Bradley Blalock and Gabriel Hughes in the background. Eleven-year veteran Lorenzen, who relies on a multi-pitch mix, made a career-high 26 starts with Kansas City last season and adds stability. Dollander, the Rockies' first-round draft pick in 2023, had an up-and-down debut but showed high upside. His four-seam fastball averaged 97.9 mph, tied for the third-highest velocity among major league starters behind Hunter Greene (99.5) and Paul Skenes (98.2) (min. 400 batted faced). Feltner missed most of last season with a back injury but made 30 starts with a 4.49 ERA the year before. Gordon enters the season on a roll, after posting quality starts in five of his final seven outings.

BULLPEN

The Rockies appear to have found their closer in righthander Seth Halvorsen, who leads with heat. Halvorsen's 103.3 mph fastball against Houston on July 3 was the fastest by a Rockie in the Statcast era. He was 11-of-14 in save opportunities. Righthander Victor Vodnik, who had 10 saves a year ago, also throws hard, and workhorse setup man Jimmy Herget provides an alternative — he had a staff-low 2.48 ERA in 83.1 innings with a 3.12 strikeout-to-walk ratio. Longtime rotation stalwart Antonio Senzatela finished last season in the 'pen and is a top candidate to be the long man. Righthanders Juan Mejia, Zach Agnos, Jaden Hill and Angel Chivilli, along with lefthanders Luis Peralta and offseason acquisition Brennan Bernardino, appear to be the top candidates for the final four bullpen spots. Peralta and Bernardino could provide balance for a relief corps that is righty-heavy.


EZEQUIEL TOVAR

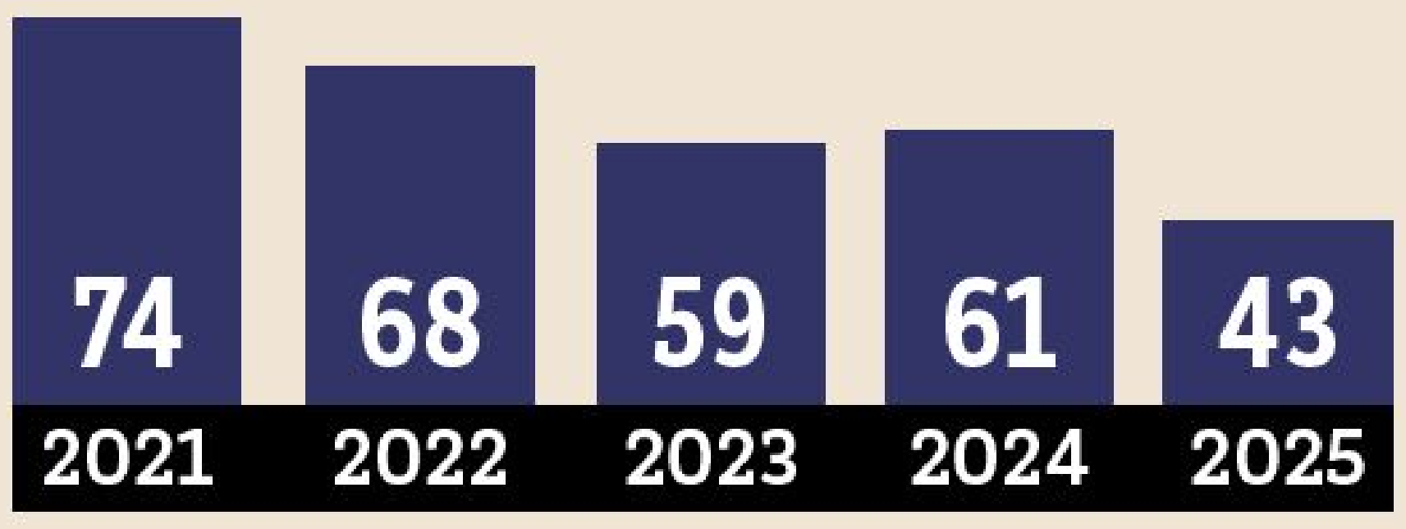
JOE CAMPOREALE-USA TODAY SPORTS

Coors Field

Opened: 1995 • Capacity: 46,897
Left: 347′ Center: 415′ Right: 350′
Tickets: 303-ROCKIES
mlb.com/ROCKIES

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

Largest increase in line drive rate from 2024-25, qualified NL hitters

1. Ezequiel Tovar, Rockies	**6.9%**
2. Mickey Moniak, Rockies	**4.9%**
3. Pete Alonso, Mets	4.4%
4. Xander Bogaerts, Padres	4.0%
5. Tyrone Taylor, Mets	4.0%

MIDDLE INFIELD

Shortstop Ezequiel Tovar's 2024 season made his seven-year, $63.5 million contract extension look like a steal — 45 doubles, 26 home runs, 3.8 WAR and a Gold Glove. Hip and oblique injuries limited him to 95 games a year ago, disrupting his progress but not his value. Tovar, who turns 25 on Aug. 1, is the franchise leader before age 24 in runs, hits, doubles, homers, RBIs and games. Ryan Ritter saw more of his playing time at shortstop than second after a midseason promotion from Triple-A Albuquerque, when he showed a major league-ready glove.

CORNERS

Rookie Blaine Crim may seem like a placeholder for No. 2 Rockies prospect Charlie Condon, but Crim has a résumé that reads like a Coors Field fit. Acquired off waivers from Texas last August, Crim had five straight 20-homer seasons while working his way through the Rangers' system before capping the 2025 campaign with five homers in 61 plate appearances after joining the Rockies in mid-September. The Rockies did not address first base in the offseason other than to release 2019 first-round pick Michael Toglia, who never stopped chasing spin. Kyle Karros, the son of long-time major leaguer Eric Karros, replaced trade-deadline departure Ryan McMahon at third base in August and upheld the franchise's tradition of excellence — Nolan Arenado, McMahon — at that position. Karros showed gap power in the minors.

HUNTER GOODMAN

DENIS POROY-IMAGN IMAGES

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

DH	Mickey Moniak (L)
SS	Ezequiel Tovar (R)
C	Hunter Goodman (R)
LF	Jordan Beck (R)
CF	Brenton Doyle (R)
RF	Jake McCarthy (L)
1B	Blaine Crim (R)
3B	Kyle Karros (R)
2B	Ryan Ritter (R)

■ BENCH

UTIL	Tyler Freeman (R)
C	Ryan Fulford (R)
OF	Zac Veen (L)
2B	Adael Amador (S)

■ ROTATION

LHP	Kyle Freeland
RHP	Michael Lorenzen
RHP	Ryan Feltner
RHP	Chase Dollander
RHP	Tanner Gordon

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Seth Halvorsen (C)
RHP	Victor Vodnik
RHP	Jimmy Herget
RHP	Juan Mejia
RHP	Antonio Senzatela
LHP	Brennan Bernardino
LHP	Luis Peralta
RHP	Angel Chivilli

OUTFIELD

Strong, athletic left fielder Jordan Beck played like a future 20/20 guy in his first full season. Beck's 16-homer, 19-stolen base season included a three-game stretch that featured back-to-back two-homer games against the Kansas City Royals in the second game of a doubleheader on April 24 and against the Cincinnati Reds on April 25. He also homered in the first game of the April 24 twin-bill. Two-time Gold Glove winner Brenton Doyle is an ideal fit in ultra-roomy center field at Coors Field. He has the range to cover both gaps and also get to balls at the wall, and he has the arm — his average arm strength of 94.2 mph was fourth-highest in the majors a year ago — to make opposing runners shy. Jake McCarthy was a savvy offseason add in a trade with Arizona. McCarthy also has the speed to cover the outfield gaps in Coors Field, and he also adds a stolen base component to the offense.

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE ROCKIES "I don't know how hiring Paul DePodesta is going to fix this. They've been so bad for so long, so you hire a guy who's been historically bad in the NFL for the last 10 years? The guys they really wanted wouldn't take the job, which always tells you that the owner is still going to be making the calls. And that's a shame because they've been a disaster for years now. The Angels and the Rockies are the two worst-run minor league systems in all of baseball — everyone knows it, and everyone laughs about it. Hunter Goodman had a breakout season at catcher, but other homegrown guys like Brenton Doyle, Michael Toglia and Ezequiel Tovar all went backward in a big way last season. They strike out a ton, they never walk and their pitchers don't strike anybody out. I just have no confidence that they'll turn this thing around."

CATCHING

Hunter Goodman established himself as the Rockies' backstop of the future after a breakout offensive season a year ago, when he set franchise catcher records for homers (31), extra-base hits (64) and RBIs (91) in his age-25 season. The Silver Slugger Award winner joined Rudy York (1937-38), Joe Torre (1966), Johnny Bench (1970, '72), Mike Piazza (1993) and Gary Sánchez (2017) as the only catchers with 30 homers and 90 RBIs at that age or younger.

DH/BENCH

DH Mickey Moniak found a home in Colorado in his 10th professional season, with career highs in home runs (24) and RBIs (68). He can also play all three outfield spots. Utilityman Tyler Freeman set career highs in doubles (20) and stolen bases (18) while being used at second base, right field and DH in his first season in Colorado. Freeman's 11.9 percent strikeout rate was the eight-lowest in the NL (minimum 400 plate appearances). Fulford's 29.1 sprint speed (feet per second) was the fastest in the majors since 2015. He also showed some pop. Young left-handed hitting outfielder Zac Veen provides depth and platoon options for a lineup that skews heavily right-handed. Switch-hitting Adael Amador's minor-league success has yet to translate, but he is only 22.

MANAGEMENT

The Rockies have never been strong on analytics, but the addition of Moneyball adherents DePodesta and Byrnes will help. A franchise-record 13 players made their major-league debuts a year ago, and the Rockies appear inclined to let their young players learn and grow rather than throw money at older, fill-in types. Ownership lured free agent Kris Bryant with a seven-year, $182 million deal before the 2022 season, but he is not likely to play again because of back issues.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Rockies have a long way to go to become competitive in the high-dollar NL West, which featured four of the 14 highest payrolls in 2025 and projects to have three of the top 10 this season. The position player nucleus is strong, but until Denver sinks closer to sea level, pitching issues will remain.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

HOME FOR THE HOLLIDAYS The Rockies welcomed their second Holliday to the organization when they made Ethan Holliday the fourth overall pick of the 2025 draft, about two decades after his father, Matt Holliday, terrorized the National League as the Rockies' primary left fielder. Matt won three straight Silver Slugger awards (2006-08) and was a prominent part of the 2007 Roctoberfest, when the Rockies won 21 of 22 games to make their only World Series. Ethan received a $9 million signing bonus, the largest ever for a high school player.

GOOD GUY CHARLIE Charlie Condon, as it turns out, is much more than a player who churns out gaudy numbers. (Yes, he does that.) Condon won the 2025 Arizona Fall League's Dernell Stenson Sportsmanship Award, presented every year since 2004 to the player who best exemplifies unselfishness, hard work and leadership. Condon led the AFL in hits (28) while slashing .337/.439/.434 with one homer and 13 RBIs for the Salt River Rafters. "He's a pro's pro," Rafters manager Eric Patterson said. "You notice a lot of his teammates kind of gravitate towards him."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH Hunter Goodman not only had the most productive season for a primary catcher in franchise history in 2025, but he also had one of the best in the modern era (since 1901). Goodman became the second catcher (minimum 51% percent of his games behind the plate) to record at least 25 doubles, five triples and 30 home runs in the same season. Philadelphia Phillies catcher Stan Lopata had a 33/7/32 season in 1956.

Schedule

■ HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26	▨ 27 MIA	▨ 28 MIA
▨ 29 MIA	▨ 30 TOR	▨ 31 TOR	▨ 1 TOR	2	■ 3 PHI	■ 4 PHI
■ 5 PHI	■ 6 HOU	■ 7 HOU	■ 8 HOU	▨ 9 SD	▨ 10 SD	▨ 11 SD
▨ 12 SD	13	▨ 14 HOU	▨ 15 HOU	▨ 16 HOU	■ 17 LAD	■ 18 LAD
■ 19 LAD	■ 20 LAD	■ 21 SD	■ 22 SD	■ 23 SD	▨ 24 NYM	▨ 25 NYM
▨ 26 NYM	27	▨ 28 CIN	▨ 29 CIN	▨ 30 CIN		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					■ 1 ATL	■ 2 ATL
■ 3 ATL	■ 4 NYM	■ 5 NYM	■ 6 NYM	7	▨ 8 PHI	▨ 9 PHI
▨ 10 PHI	11	▨ 12 PIT	▨ 13 PIT	▨ 14 PIT	■ 15 ARI	■ 16 ARI
■ 17 ARI	■ 18 TEX	■ 19 TEX	■ 20 TEX	▨ 21 ARI	▨ 22 ARI	▨ 23 ARI
▨ 24 ARI	▨ 25 LAD	▨ 26 LAD	▨ 27 LAD	28	■ 29 SF	■ 30 SF
■ 31 SF						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	▨ 1 LAA	▨ 2 LAA	▨ 3 LAA	4	■ 5 MIL	■ 6 MIL
■ 7 MIL	8	■ 9 CHC	■ 10 CHC	■ 11 CHC	▨ 12 A's	▨ 13 A's
▨ 14 A's	▨ 15 CHC	▨ 16 CHC	▨ 17 CHC	18	■ 19 PIT	■ 20 PIT
■ 21 PIT	■ 22 BOS	■ 23 BOS	■ 24 BOS	25	▨ 26 MIN	▨ 27 MIN
▨ 28 MIN	■ 29 MIA	■ 30 MIA				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			■ 1 MIA	■ 2 MIA	■ 3 SF	■ 4 SF
■ 5 SF	▨ 6 LAD	▨ 7 LAD	▨ 8 LAD	▨ 9 SF	▨ 10 SF	▨ 11 SF
▨ 12 SF	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	■ 17 CIN	■ 18 CIN
■ 19 CIN	■ 20 WAS	■ 21 WAS	■ 22 WAS	23	▨ 24 MIL	▨ 25 MIL
▨ 26 MIL	27	▨ 28 SD	▨ 29 SD	30	■ 31 KC	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						■ 1 KC
■ 2 KC	■ 3 TB	■ 4 TB	■ 5 TB	6	▨ 7 STL	▨ 8 STL
▨ 9 STL	▨ 10 ARI	▨ 11 ARI	▨ 12 ARI	13	▨ 14 SF	▨ 15 SF
▨ 16 SF	■ 17 LAD	■ 18 LAD	■ 19 LAD	20	■ 21 CLE	■ 22 CLE
■ 23 CLE	▨ 24 WAS	▨ 25 WAS	▨ 26 WAS	▨ 27 WAS	▨ 28 ATL	▨ 29 ATL
▨ 30 ATL	■ 31 BAL					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		■ 1 BAL	■ 2 BAL	3	■ 4 STL	■ 5 STL
■ 6 STL	7	▨ 8 NYY	▨ 9 NYY	▨ 10 NYY	▨ 11 DET	▨ 12 DET
▨ 13 DET	■ 14 SD	■ 15 SD	■ 16 SD	■ 17 SD	■ 18 SEA	■ 19 SEA
■ 20 SEA	21	■ 22 ARI	■ 23 ARI	■ 24 ARI	▨ 25 CWS	▨ 26 CWS
▨ 27 CWS	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

57 Players used in 2025, tying a franchise record set in 2023.

◆

3 Consecutive 100-loss seasons, a major league first since the Houston Astros in 2011-13.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

SARAH PHIPPS/THE OKLAHOMAN

- **1. Ethan Holliday, SS (18)** The second of Matt Holliday's sons to go in the first round of the draft, Ethan has athleticism and pop.

2. Charlie Condon, 1B (22) Condon's prodigious college production — 62 home runs in two seasons — vaulted him to No. 3 in the 2024 draft.

3. Cole Carrigg, OF (23) A five-tool guy whose arm and athleticism are an ideal fit in spacious Coors Field.

4. Roldy Brito, 2B/CF (18) Had 31 extra-base hits, 35 stolen bases and a .959 OPS in 84 games at the Rookie and Single-A levels a year ago.

5. Robert Calaz, OF (20) His $1.7 million signing bonus back in 2023 looks like money well spent.

6. Brody Brecht, RHP (23) Brecht leads with a fastball in the 96-99 mph range and complements that with a 90 mph slider.

7. Wilder Dalis, 3B (19) Switch-hitter flashed power and plate discipline with six homers and 64 RBIs across two levels in 2025.

8. Roc Riggio, 2B (23) Profiles as a Dustin Pedroia type — scrappy, aggressive, pull-side power from a compact frame.

9. JB Middleton, RHP (22) Used a four-pitch mix and spot-on command to jump into the second round of the 2025 draft.

10. Cade Denton, RHP (24) Late bloomer dazzled in prospect-laden Arizona Fall League last season.

Rockies Roster

President of Baseball Operations: Paul DePodesta • **Manager:** Warren Schaeffer • **Coaches:** Matt Buschmann (bullpen), Kyle Cunningham (game planning manager), Ronnie Gideon (first base), Andy González (third base), Clint Hurdle (interim bench coach), Alon Leichman (pitching), Jeff Pickler (bench), Brett Pill (hitting), Gabe Ribas (asst. pitching), Nic Wilson (hitting)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
52	Garrett Acton	L-R	6-2	215	6/15/98	**TAMPA BAY**	**0-0**	**0.00**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1.0**	**0**	**2**	**0**
						Durham (AAA)	5-1	3.68	45	4	3	58.2	39	27	71
36	Zach Agnos	R-R	6-0	210	8/15/00	**COLORADO**	**1-3**	**6.61**	**30**	**0**	**4**	**31.1**	**31**	**17**	**19**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	0-0	2.25	10	0	3	12.0	6	4	14
	Brennan Bernardino	L-L	6-4	180	1/15/92	**BOSTON**	**4-3**	**3.14**	**55**	**3**	**1**	**51.2**	**39**	**26**	**43**
						Worcester (AAA)	0-1	2.25	4	0	0	4.0	3	4	8
64	Bradley Blalock	R-R	6-2	213	12/25/00	**COLORADO**	**2-6**	**9.36**	**14**	**12**	**0**	**58.2**	**85**	**23**	**27**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	1-5	8.60	15	15	0	60.2	83	35	52
51	McCade Brown	R-R	6-6	225	8/15/00	**COLORADO**	**0-5**	**7.36**	**7**	**7**	**0**	**25.2**	**30**	**17**	**23**
						Hartford (AA)	4-2	3.14	11	11	0	43.0	31	15	57
						Spokane (A+)	0-0	1.60	9	9	0	33.2	21	15	48
57	Angel Chivilli	R-R	6-2	162	7/28/02	**COLORADO**	**1-5**	**7.06**	**43**	**0**	**0**	**58.2**	**76**	**23**	**43**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	0-1	7.00	10	0	1	9.0	10	2	10
46	Jeff Criswell	R-R	6-4	225	3/10/99		Injured — Missed Season								
32	Chase Dollander	R-R	6-2	200	10/26/01	**COLORADO**	**2-12**	**6.52**	**21**	**21**	**0**	**98.0**	**103**	**49**	**82**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	0-2	7.04	4	4	0	15.1	19	10	17
18	Ryan Feltner	R-R	6-4	190	9/2/96	**COLORADO**	**0-2**	**4.75**	**6**	**6**	**0**	**30.1**	**33**	**12**	**25**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	0-3	8.57	6	6	0	21.0	29	23	13
						ACL Rockies (R)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	1.2	2	0	2
21	Kyle Freeland	L-L	6-4	204	5/14/93	**COLORADO**	**5-17**	**4.98**	**31**	**31**	**0**	**162.2**	**193**	**38**	**124**
29	Tanner Gordon	L-R	6-5	215	10/26/97	**COLORADO**	**6-8**	**6.33**	**15**	**15**	**0**	**75.1**	**96**	**17**	**62**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	1-4	5.25	12	12	0	58.1	78	11	47
54	Seth Halvorsen	R-R	6-2	225	2/18/00	**COLORADO**	**1-2**	**4.99**	**42**	**0**	**11**	**39.2**	**41**	**21**	**36**
44	Jimmy Herget	R-R	6-3	170	9/9/93	**COLORADO**	**1-2**	**2.48**	**59**	**0**	**0**	**83.1**	**72**	**26**	**81**
59	Welinton Herrera	L-L	6-0	166	4/3/04	Hartford (AA)	4-5	3.50	37	0	7	46.1	41	19	70
						Spokane (A+)	1-0	0.49	15	0	10	18.1	8	6	29
0	Jaden Hill	R-R	6-4	234	12/22/99	**COLORADO**	**1-1**	**3.38**	**28**	**0**	**0**	**29.1**	**27**	**12**	**31**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	2-1	3.57	14	0	1	17.2	10	3	28
						ACL Rockies (R)	0-1	3.00	3	2	0	3.0	4	1	3
	Gabriel Hughes	R-R	6-4	220	8/22/01	Albuquerque (AAA)	4-3	5.11	14	14	0	61.2	67	29	48
						Hartford (AA)	1-3	3.07	9	9	0	41.0	27	8	35
						ACL Rockies (R)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	2.2	1	1	5
	Michael Lorenzen	R-R	6-3	217	1/4/92	**KANSAS CITY**	**7-11**	**4.64**	**27**	**26**	**0**	**141.2**	**149**	**39**	**127**
47	Juan Mejia	R-R	6-3	200	7/4/00	**COLORADO**	**2-2**	**3.96**	**55**	**0**	**1**	**61.1**	**52**	**25**	**68**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	1-0	4.73	10	0	0	13.1	8	6	22
45	Carson Palmquist	L-L	6-3	185	10/17/00	**COLORADO**	**0-4**	**8.91**	**9**	**7**	**0**	**34.1**	**45**	**25**	**27**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	4-5	4.64	26	10	0	77.2	62	42	94
41	Luis Peralta	L-L	5-11	170	1/6/01	**COLORADO**	**1-3**	**9.47**	**22**	**0**	**0**	**19.0**	**26**	**18**	**16**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	1-4	9.09	34	0	0	34.2	46	28	51
	RJ Petit	R-R	6-8	300	9/23/99	Toledo (AAA)	4-1	2.74	20	1	1	23.0	19	10	33
						Erie (AA)	6-1	2.28	27	1	2	43.1	29	12	46
49	Antonio Senzatela	R-R	6-1	236	1/21/95	**COLORADO**	**4-15**	**6.65**	**30**	**23**	**0**	**130.0**	**192**	**47**	**73**
	Keegan Thompson	R-R	6-1	210	3/13/95	Iowa (AAA)	6-2	4.50	33	5	0	64.0	65	25	83
38	Victor Vodnik	R-R	6-0	200	10/9/99	**COLORADO**	**4-3**	**3.02**	**52**	**0**	**10**	**50.2**	**45**	**26**	**49**
						Hartford (AA)	0-0	10.80	2	0	0	1.2	1	1	2

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
37	Braxton Fulford	R-R	5-10	190	12/9/98	**COLORADO**	**.213**	**38**	**108**	**11**	**23**	**1**	**16**	**7**	**36**	**1**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	.354	43	147	35	52	13	37	17	40	3
15	Hunter Goodman	R-R	6-0	210	10/8/99	**COLORADO**	**.278**	**144**	**540**	**73**	**150**	**31**	**91**	**33**	**152**	**1**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1	Adael Amador	S-R	5-11	200	4/11/03	**COLORADO**	**.177**	**41**	**113**	**5**	**20**	**1**	**10**	**11**	**27**	**1**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	.303	80	314	49	95	11	59	50	47	20
16	Blaine Crim	R-R	5-10	200	6/17/97	**COLORADO**	**.241**	**15**	**54**	**9**	**13**	**5**	**12**	**5**	**22**	**0**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	.273	26	99	13	27	3	14	13	20	1
						TEXAS	**.000**	**5**	**11**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**6**	**0**
						Round Rock (AAA)	.284	83	328	54	93	18	71	43	70	3
12	Kyle Karros	R-R	6-5	220	7/26/02	**COLORADO**	**.226**	**43**	**137**	**20**	**31**	**1**	**9**	**15**	**41**	**0**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	.306	16	62	9	19	2	4	5	12	0
						Hartford (AA)	.294	55	197	40	58	4	21	32	45	7
						ACL Rockies (R)	.400	4	10	3	4	0	1	3	1	0
8	Ryan Ritter	R-R	6-1	200	11/10/00	**COLORADO**	**.241**	**60**	**187**	**22**	**45**	**1**	**18**	**10**	**61**	**3**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	.303	55	218	45	66	16	50	34	54	3
14	Ezequiel Tovar	R-R	6-0	162	8/1/01	**COLORADO**	**.253**	**95**	**360**	**44**	**91**	**9**	**33**	**21**	**98**	**5**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	.163	11	43	3	7	0	1	2	10	0

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
27	Jordan Beck	R-R	6-2	225	4/19/01	**COLORADO**	**.258**	**148**	**539**	**62**	**139**	**16**	**53**	**43**	**174**	**19**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	.143	8	35	4	5	1	3	2	9	2
23	Kris Bryant	R-R	6-5	230	1/4/92	**COLORADO**	**.154**	**11**	**39**	**2**	**6**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**13**	**0**
9	Brenton Doyle	R-R	6-3	220	5/14/98	**COLORADO**	**.233**	**138**	**502**	**57**	**117**	**15**	**57**	**30**	**138**	**18**
35	Yanquiel Fernández	L-L	6-2	198	1/1/03	**COLORADO**	**.225**	**52**	**138**	**13**	**31**	**4**	**11**	**8**	**44**	**0**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	.284	64	243	43	69	13	39	23	38	0
2	Tyler Freeman	R-R	5-11	190	5/21/99	**COLORADO**	**.281**	**110**	**377**	**50**	**106**	**2**	**31**	**34**	**51**	**18**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	.167	4	12	2	2	0	0	2	2	0
20	Troy Johnston	L-L	5-11	205	6/22/97	**MIAMI**	**.277**	**44**	**112**	**12**	**31**	**4**	**13**	**8**	**26**	**2**
						Jacksonville (AAA)	.252	84	314	49	79	12	39	28	68	31
31	Jake McCarthy	L-L	6-1	215	7/30/97	**ARIZONA**	**.204**	**67**	**206**	**18**	**42**	**4**	**20**	**10**	**40**	**6**
						Reno (AAA)	.314	49	207	43	65	1	16	24	33	12
22	Mickey Moniak	L-R	6-2	195	5/13/98	**COLORADO**	**.270**	**135**	**434**	**62**	**117**	**24**	**68**	**22**	**110**	**9**
30	Sterlin Thompson	L-R	6-3	200	6/26/01	Albuquerque (AAA)	.296	120	439	82	130	18	66	53	107	12
13	Zac Veen	L-R	6-3	190	12/12/01	**COLORADO**	**.118**	**12**	**34**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**14**	**1**
						Albuquerque (AAA)	.289	90	370	57	107	11	59	35	84	15
						ACL Rockies (R)	.286	3	7	2	2	0	1	4	2	0

Los Angeles DODGERS

2026 PREDICTION
1ST
NL WEST
2025 FINISH: 1st (93-69)

Andrew Friedman has laid out an ambitious goal for these Los Angeles Dodgers — make this "a golden era of Dodger baseball." Mission accomplished?

Since 2013, the Dodgers have been the winningest team in baseball, with 13 consecutive postseason appearances and 12 National League West titles. They have been to the World Series five times in the past nine seasons and won it three times in the past six, including back-to-back championships — the first in MLB since the New York Yankees won three in a row from 1998-2000. The signing of Shohei Ohtani to a heavily deferred contract before the 2024 season supercharged the Dodgers on the field and off, and they have turned loose their financial might, prompting some to say they are "ruining baseball." But until the collective bargaining agreement undergoes potential revision following this season, the Dodgers are just doing what the rules and their finances allow them to do. A third consecutive championship could be the result.

ROTATION

For the second season in a row, the Dodgers head into the season with an embarrassment of riches in the starting rotation. Ohtani didn't pitch until June last season and totaled just 47 innings during the regular season. But he is expected to return to full-time two-way player status in 2026. The Dodgers are likely to run with a six-man starting rotation in order to limit the workload of Ohtani and others. They have quality arms to do it with Blake Snell, Yoshinobu Yamamoto, Tyler Glasnow, Roki Sasaki and Ohtani. Young righthander Emmet Sheehan will likely earn the sixth spot with Clayton Kershaw now retired. That's never enough, though, and the Dodgers have depth in Gavin Stone and River Ryan, both of whom are expected to return after missing the 2025 season while recovering from surgery. Justin Wrobleski and Ben Casparius are also available after finishing last year in the bullpen.

BULLPEN

The Dodgers invested heavily in their bullpen before the 2025 season, signing Tanner Scott to a four-year, $72 million contract, veteran Kirby Yates for one year at $13 million and re-signing Blake Treinen for two years and $22 million. All three struggled, and only Treinen pitched in the postseason. The bullpen became such an Achilles heel that the Dodgers used starting pitchers like Sasaki, Glasnow and Yamamoto in relief during the postseason. They moved to address that weakness, signing Edwin Díaz to a three-year, $69 million contract. The Dodgers will enter the 2026 season with a dedicated closer for the first time since Kenley Jansen's departure following the 2021 season. The group in front of Díaz will look a lot better if Scott and Treinen bounce back from poor seasons and Brusdar Graterol returns from shoulder surgery to regain his 2023 form.

MIDDLE INFIELD

Mookie Betts successfully made an unprecedented move to shortstop on defense, earning recognition as a Gold Glove finalist at his new position. His offense did not follow him from right field, though. Betts' 2024 numbers were

SHOHEI OHTANI

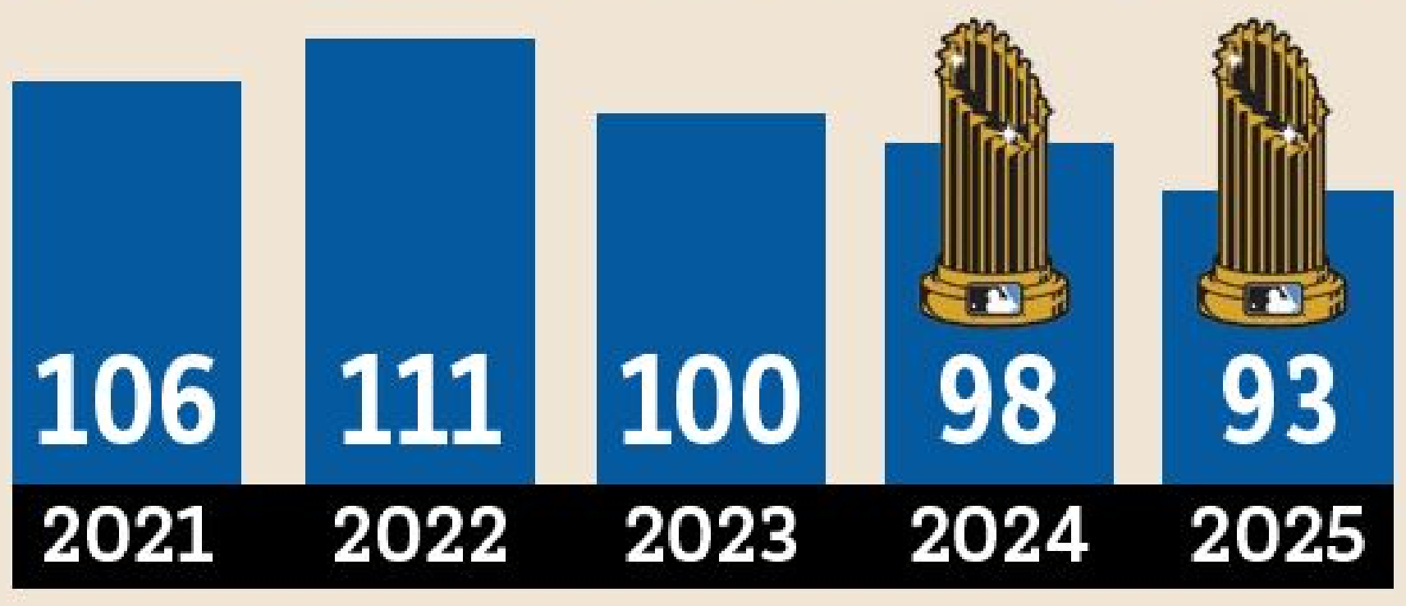
KIYOSHI MIO-IMAGN IMAGES

Dodger Stadium

Opened: 1962 • Capacity: 56,000
Left: 330′ Center: 395′ Right: 330′
Tickets: 866-DODGERS
mlb.com/DODGERS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

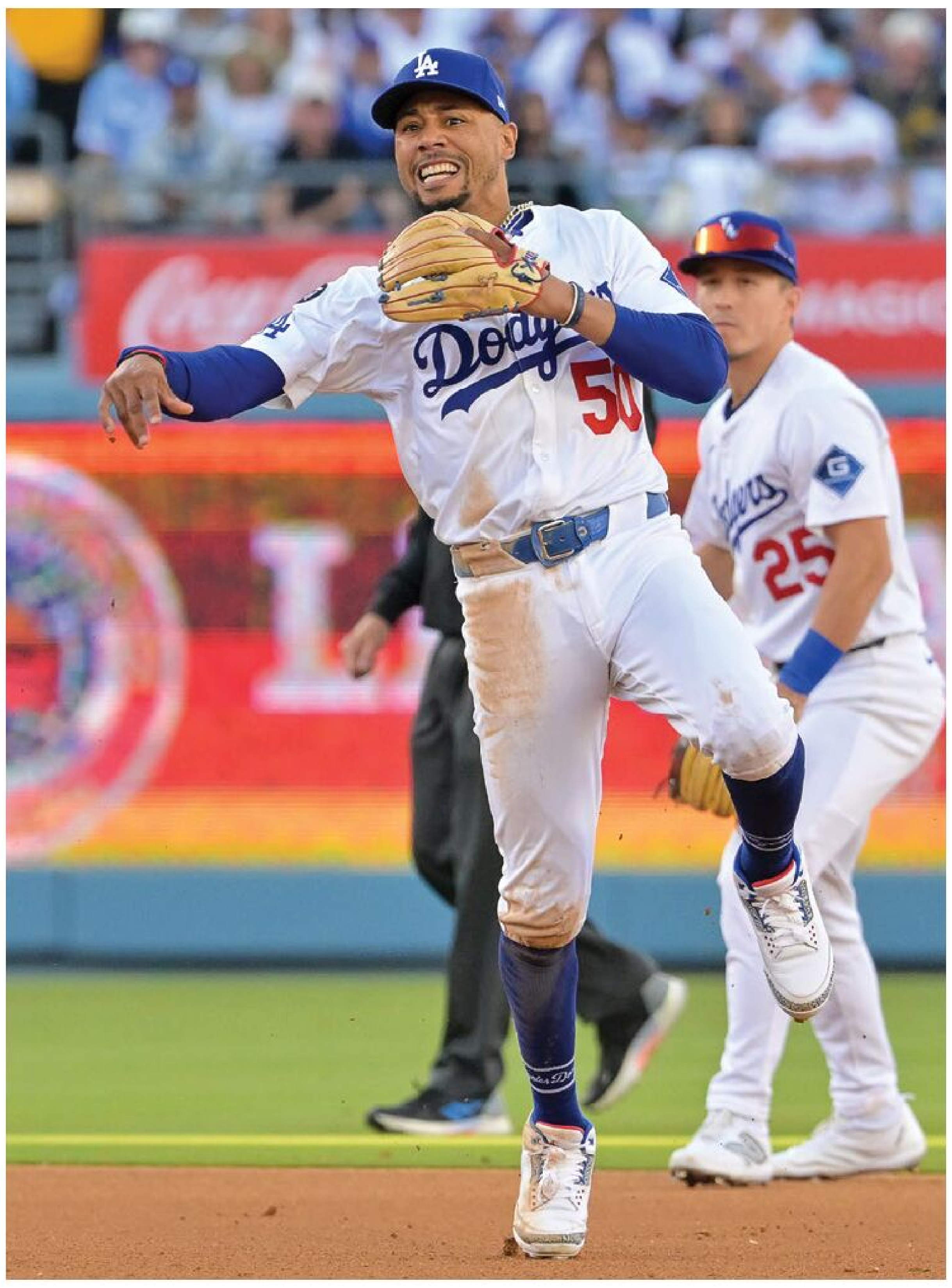
Highest single-season win probability added in the NL, 2021-25

1. Shohei Ohtani, Dodgers, 2024	**7.31**
2. Ronald Acuña Jr., Braves, 2023	6.87
3. Shohei Ohtani, Dodgers, 2025	**5.89**
4. Bryce Harper, Phillies, 2023	5.77
5. Mookie Betts, Dodgers, 2023	5.21

the lowest of his career across the board. The Dodgers are hopeful that his comfort on defense and better strength after an early-season virus last year will make for a bounce-back season at the plate. Second base is a wild card for the Dodgers. Depending on how much he is needed in the outfield, Tommy Edman could be the primary starter at the position. Or Hyeseong Kim could get a longer look there after uneven results in his first year since moving from Korea.

CORNERS

The Dodgers had the oldest position player group in MLB last season (an average age of 30.7). That was most evident at the corners. At first, 36-year-old Freddie Freeman dragged some physical maladies with him from the 2024 season and suffered an extended mid-season slump. At third, 35-year-old Max Muncy missed extended time due to injury for the second consecutive season. The Dodgers will count on both again in 2026, with youngsters Alex Freeland (third) and Dalton Rushing (first) potentially carrying some of the corner load.



MOOKIE BETTS

JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

The Dodgers gambled on a one-year contract with a free-agent veteran outfielder two years in a row. They hit on Teoscar Hernández, who was an All-Star in 2024 and earned a new three-year contract. But Michael Conforto was a bust in 2025, and Hernández dropped off offensively in the first year of his new contract and was a defensive liability in right field at times. Fortunately for the Dodgers, Andy Pages emerged as a 27-homer, 86-RBI answer. He and Hernández appear to be the only certainties in the outfield heading into 2026 with Edman likely to see time in center field.

CATCHING

The position is in good hands with Will Smith coming off a third consecutive All-Star season and an epic World Series performance. Smith caught all 73 innings of the World Series (including all 18 innings of Game 3) and hit the game-winning home run in the 11th inning of Game 7, prompting teammate Freddie Freeman to dub Smith a "silent assassin" for his success in the clutch. Rushing was the Dodgers' top prospect when the season started and endured some rough times learning the ropes as Smith's backup. He could get more at-bats in 2026 if the Dodgers extend his playing time to left field and/or first base.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

DH	Shohei Ohtani (L)
SS	Mookie Betts (R)
1B	Freddie Freeman (L)
C	Will Smith (R)
3B	Max Muncy (L)
RF	Teoscar Hernández (R)
CF	Tommy Edman (S)
LF	Andy Pages (R)
2B	Hyeseong Kim (L)

■ BENCH

C/1B	Dalton Rushing (L)
INF	Miguel Rojas (R)
OF	Alex Call (R)
INF	Alex Freeland (S)

■ ROTATION

LHP	Blake Snell
RHP	Yoshinobu Yamamoto
RHP	Tyler Glasnow
RHP	Shohei Ohtani
RHP	Roki Sasaki
RHP	Emmet Sheehan

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Edwin Díaz (C)
LHP	Tanner Scott
RHP	Blake Treinen
LHP	Alex Vesia
LHP	Anthony Banda
RHP	Brusdar Graterol
LHP	Jack Dreyer

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE DODGERS "It's no real secret: They spend, and they have so much depth. They sign Miguel Rojas back for $5.5 million; nobody else does that for a utility player, and he comes up huge for them. Then they'll flat-out steal guys like Tommy Edman, who they got for nothing a couple of years ago. It's unbelievable. They missed on a couple of bullpen signings last year, but it's no problem — they go right out and sign the best guy, Edwin Díaz, for the back end. They're so deep, there's no way they'll miss the playoffs. That's why they give all that money to stuff guys like Blake Snell and Tyler Glasnow because they know they can take half the year off and be fresher than everyone else in October. There's really no weakness. Yeah, they're getting older, but I don't see Freddie Freeman slowing down, and I'll always believe in Mookie Betts. His numbers were down last year, but that's just getting used to the mental fatigue from playing every day in the middle infield. Will Smith is the best hitting catcher in baseball, and everybody knows it now. And, of course, they have the best player ever in Shohei Ohtani, and the modern pitching ironman in Yoshinobu Yamamoto."

DH/BENCH

Ohtani's return to two-way status in 2025 meant a drop-off in his offense — from a .310 batting average, 130 RBIs and 59 stolen bases during his historic 50-50 season to a .282 average, an MLB-leading 146 runs scored and 20 steals in 2025. It was still an elite offensive season and landed him a fourth unanimous MVP. The Dodgers' bench underwent some changes in 2025, with veterans Chris Taylor and Austin Barnes jettisoned. But Miguel Rojas returns for another season (he plans to retire after 2026), and don't be surprised to see Kiké Hernández re-signed when he's ready to return from elbow surgery.

MANAGEMENT

During their 2024 postseason run, president of baseball operations Friedman said, "There's just a lot of different ways to win a World Series." The Dodgers have proven that, winning on the strength of their bullpen and offense in 2024 and then riding their starting pitchers to a second title in 2025. They were in good hands both times as manager Dave Roberts pushed all the right buttons, handling those very different challenges and surviving one of the most compelling World Series in history last year. The combination of a sophisticated front office and new-age manager gives the Dodgers a state-of-the-art in management structure.

FINAL ANALYSIS

Only two MLB franchises have ever won three (or more) World Series titles in a row — the Oakland Athletics from 1972-74 and New York Yankees three times (1936-39, 1949-53 and 1998-2000). Backed by rich (and willing) ownership, a sophisticated front office run by Friedman and a massive influx of revenue from Ohtani's arrival that has allowed them to assemble a deep and talented roster, the Dodgers have the tools to become the first National League franchise to pull off a "three-peat."

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

HIGH COST The Dodgers set new records for payroll (an estimated $417.3 million by competitive balance tax assessment) and luxury tax bill ($169.4 million). The competitive balance tax bill was higher than the total payrolls of 12 teams, including three that reached the postseason (the Milwaukee Brewers, Cincinnati Reds and Cleveland Guardians).

AWARD WINNER Shohei Ohtani continued to make MVP history by joining Barry Bonds (seven MVPs) as the only players to win more than three MVP awards. Ohtani won his fourth in five years following the 2025 season. All four have been unanimous selections, making him the only player to win multiple MVPs unanimously. Ohtani joined Joe Morgan (1975-76) as the only players to win both the MVP and a World Series championship in two different seasons.

DEFERRED SALARIES The Dodgers have used deferred payment as a way to minimize the impact on their payroll of multiple free-agent signings in recent seasons. When he agreed to defer $13.5 million of his three-year, $69 million contract this winter, Edwin Díaz became the ninth player the Dodgers will pay into the future. The group is owed a total of $1.065 billion in payments beginning in 2028 and running through 2047. The deferred payments are allowed by MLB with some requirements such as funding the future salaries in an escrow account within two years of the money being earned. Owners are expected to take aim at the deferred payment tool (along with a salary cap) during negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement. But manager Dave Roberts expressed the Dodgers' feelings about that. "Honestly, I think that we have an organization that whatever rules or regulations, constructs are put in front of us, we're going to dominate," he said in December. "And so just give us the rules, let us know the landscape and then I'll bet on our organization."

Schedule

🟦 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 🟦 ARI	27 🟦 ARI	28 🟦 ARI
29	30 🟦 CLE	31 🟦 CLE	1 🟦 CLE	2	3 ▨ WAS	4 ▨ WAS
5 ▨ WAS	6 ▨ TOR	7 ▨ TOR	8 ▨ TOR	9	10 🟦 TEX	11 🟦 TEX
12 🟦 TEX	13 🟦 NYM	14 🟦 NYM	15 🟦 NYM	16	17 ▨ COL	18 ▨ COL
19 ▨ COL	20 ▨ COL	21 ▨ SF	22 ▨ SF	23 ▨ SF	24 🟦 CHC	25 🟦 CHC
26 🟦 CHC	27 🟦 MIA	28 🟦 MIA	29 🟦 MIA	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ▨ STL	2 ▨ STL
3 ▨ STL	4 ▨ HOU	5 ▨ HOU	6 ▨ HOU	7	8 🟦 ATL	9 🟦 ATL
10 🟦 ATL	11 🟦 SF	12 🟦 SF	13 🟦 SF	14 🟦 SF	15 ▨ LAA	16 ▨ LAA
17 ▨ LAA	18 ▨ SD	19 ▨ SD	20 ▨ SD	21	22 ▨ MIL	23 ▨ MIL
24 ▨ MIL	25 🟦 COL	26 🟦 COL	27 🟦 COL	28	29 🟦 PHI	30 🟦 PHI
31 🟦 PHI						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 ▨ ARI	2 ▨ ARI	3 ▨ ARI	4 ▨ ARI	5 🟦 LAA	6 🟦 LAA
7 🟦 LAA	8	9 ▨ PIT	10 ▨ PIT	11 ▨ PIT	12 ▨ CWS	13 ▨ CWS
14 ▨ CWS	15 🟦 TB	16 🟦 TB	17 🟦 TB	18	19 🟦 BAL	20 🟦 BAL
21 🟦 BAL	22 ▨ MIN	23 ▨ MIN	24 ▨ MIN	25	26 ▨ SD	27 ▨ SD
28 ▨ SD	29 ▨ A's	30 ▨ A's				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 ▨ A's	2 🟦 SD	3 🟦 SD	4 🟦 SD
5 🟦 SD	6 🟦 COL	7 🟦 COL	8 🟦 COL	9	10 🟦 ARI	11 🟦 ARI
12 🟦 ARI	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 ▨ NYY	18 ▨ NYY
19 ▨ NYY	20 ▨ PHI	21 ▨ PHI	22 ▨ PHI	23	24 ▨ NYM	25 ▨ NYM
26 ▨ NYM	27	28 🟦 SEA	29 🟦 SEA	30 🟦 SEA	31 🟦 BOS	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 🟦 BOS
2 🟦 BOS	3 ▨ CHC	4 ▨ CHC	5 ▨ CHC	6	7 ▨ ARI	8 ▨ ARI
9 ▨ ARI	10 🟦 KC	11 🟦 KC	12 🟦 KC	13 🟦 MIL	14 🟦 MIL	15 🟦 MIL
16 🟦 MIL	17 ▨ COL	18 ▨ COL	19 ▨ COL	20	21 🟦 PIT	22 🟦 PIT
23 🟦 PIT	24	25 ▨ ATL	26 ▨ ATL	27 ▨ ATL	28 ▨ DET	29 ▨ DET
30 ▨ DET	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 🟦 STL	2 🟦 STL	3 🟦 STL	4 🟦 WAS	5 🟦 WAS
6 🟦 WAS	7 🟦 CIN	8 🟦 CIN	9 🟦 CIN	10	11 ▨ MIA	12 ▨ MIA
13 ▨ MIA	14 ▨ CIN	15 ▨ CIN	16 ▨ CIN	17 ▨ CIN	18 🟦 SF	19 🟦 SF
20 🟦 SF	21	22 🟦 SD	23 🟦 SD	24 🟦 SD	25 ▨ SF	26 ▨ SF
27 ▨ SF	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

14 Pitchers with three wins in a single World Series, most recently Yoshinobu Yamamoto for the Dodgers in 2025. Yamamoto is the first to win all three on the road.

◆

1.025 Shohei Ohtani's OPS in his two seasons with the Dodgers.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

MARK J. REBILAS-IMAGN IMAGES

1. Josue De Paula, OF (20) De Paula has the most offensive upside among the Dodgers' cache of outfield prospects.

2. Eduardo Quintero, OF (20) Quintero was the Cal League MVP after posting a .960 OPS with Single-A Rancho Cucamonga.

3. Zyhir Hope, OF (21) Hope's power-and-speed combination made him a trade target for the Dodgers in a deal with the Cubs.

4. Mike Sirota, OF (22) Possesses plus speed and slugged a combined .616 at Single-A and High-A in 2025.

5. Jackson Ferris, LHP (22) Has been effective but needs to harness control (4.7 BB/9 IP in Double-A in 2025).

6. Alex Freeland, INF (24) Switch-hitting shortstop has filled in at second and third at the big-league level.

7. Emil Morales, SS (19) Won MVP honors in the Dominican Summer League during his pro debut in 2024.

8. James Tibbs III, OF/1B (23) The 13th pick in the 2024 draft, Tibbs has already been traded twice.

9. Kellon Lindsey, SS (20) The Dodgers' first-round pick in 2024 has elite speed.

10. Adam Serwinowski, LHP (21) Serwinowski had a 1.83 ERA in six High-A starts after arriving via trade.

Dodgers Roster

President of Baseball Operations: Andrew Friedman • **Manager:** Dave Roberts • **Coaches:** Josh Bard (bullpen), Aaron Bates (hitting), Dino Ebel (third base/outfield), Bob Geren (field coordinator), Danny Lehmann (bench), Brandon McDaniel (development integration), Connor McGuiness (asst. pitching), Mark Prior (pitching), Robert Van Scoyoc (hitting), Chris Woodward (first base/infield)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
43	Anthony Banda	L-L	6-2	221	8/10/93	LOS ANGELES NL	5-1	3.18	71	1	0	65.0	45	34	61
78	Ben Casparius	R-R	6-2	215	2/11/99	LOS ANGELES NL	7-5	4.64	46	3	2	77.2	78	21	71
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	2-0	3.38	5	0	0	5.1	4	0	7
39	Edwin Díaz	R-R	6-3	165	3/22/94	NEW YORK NL	6-3	1.63	62	0	28	66.1	37	21	98
86	Jack Dreyer	R-L	6-2	205	2/27/99	LOS ANGELES NL	3-2	2.95	67	5	4	76.1	56	24	74
65	Paul Gervase	R-R	6-10	230	5/23/00	LOS ANGELES NL	0-0	4.50	1	0	0	2.0	2	1	2
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	2-1	4.74	15	0	1	19.0	14	15	16
						TAMPA BAY	0-0	4.26	5	0	0	6.1	6	5	6
						Durham (AAA)	2-3	3.12	28	1	4	40.1	27	12	63
31	Tyler Glasnow	L-R	6-8	225	8/23/93	LOS ANGELES NL	4-3	3.19	18	18	0	90.1	56	43	106
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	0-0	8.31	3	3	0	8.2	13	5	12
48	Brusdar Graterol	R-R	6-1	265	8/26/98	Injured — Missed Season									
60	Edgardo Henriquez	R-R	6-4	200	6/24/02	LOS ANGELES NL	2-1	2.37	22	0	1	19.0	17	5	18
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	1-1	6.85	22	2	0	23.2	30	14	36
63	Kyle Hurt	R-R	6-3	240	5/30/98	Oklahoma City (AAA)	1-0	1.93	7	0	0	9.1	10	5	10
61	Will Klein	R-R	6-5	230	11/28/99	LOS ANGELES NL	1-1	2.35	14	0	0	15.1	14	10	21
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	1-3	5.16	20	0	1	22.2	18	17	44
						Tacoma (AAA)	2-0	7.17	22	0	3	21.1	23	19	32
96	Landon Knack	L-R	6-2	220	7/15/97	LOS ANGELES NL	3-2	4.89	10	7	1	42.1	40	19	42
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	6-6	6.66	21	18	0	102.2	105	55	94
	Ronan Kopp	L-L	6-7	250	7/28/02	Oklahoma City (AAA)	1-1	4.56	21	0	1	25.2	23	20	41
						Tulsa (AA)	1-3	2.53	28	0	1	32.0	23	22	50
28	Bobby Miller	L-R	6-5	220	4/5/99	LOS ANGELES NL	0-0	12.60	2	1	0	5.0	11	2	7
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	3-6	5.66	35	14	1	90.2	80	61	83
17	Shohei Ohtani	L-R	6-3	210	7/5/94	LOS ANGELES NL	1-1	2.87	14	14	0	47.0	40	9	62
77	River Ryan	R-R	6-2	195	8/17/98	Injured — Missed Season									
11	Roki Sasaki	R-R	6-2	187	11/3/01	LOS ANGELES NL	1-1	4.46	10	8	0	36.1	30	22	28
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	0-2	6.10	7	5	0	20.2	20	13	19
66	Tanner Scott	R-L	6-0	235	7/22/94	LOS ANGELES NL	1-4	4.74	61	0	23	57.0	54	18	60
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	1.0	0	1	2
80	Emmet Sheehan	R-R	6-5	220	11/15/99	LOS ANGELES NL	6-3	2.82	15	12	0	73.1	49	22	89
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	1-1	4.58	5	5	0	17.2	16	2	31
						ACL Dodgers (R)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	2.0	0	0	5
7	Blake Snell	L-L	6-4	225	12/4/92	LOS ANGELES NL	5-4	2.35	11	11	0	61.1	51	26	72
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	0-0	1.04	2	2	0	8.2	4	5	13
						R. Cucamonga (A)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	2.0	1	0	4
						ACL Dodgers (R)	0-1	3.00	1	1	0	3.0	3	0	7
41	Brock Stewart	L-R	6-3	220	10/3/91	LOS ANGELES NL	0-1	4.91	4	0	0	3.2	6	2	3
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	0-0	0.00	3	0	0	2.2	3	2	3
						MINNESOTA	2-1	2.38	39	0	0	34.0	26	11	41
						Fort Myers (A)	0-0	0.00	2	0	0	1.2	0	0	5
35	Gavin Stone	R-R	6-1	175	10/15/98	Injured — Missed Season									
49	Blake Treinen	R-R	6-5	225	6/30/88	LOS ANGELES NL	2-7	5.40	32	0	2	26.2	30	19	36
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	0-0	0.00	6	1	0	6.0	0	1	9
						ACL Dodgers (R)	0-0	9.00	1	0	0	1.0	1	0	1
51	Alex Vesia	L-L	6-1	209	4/11/96	LOS ANGELES NL	4-2	3.02	68	0	5	59.2	37	22	80
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	0-0	0.00	2	0	0	2.0	0	0	3
70	Justin Wrobleski	L-L	6-1	194	7/14/00	LOS ANGELES NL	5-5	4.32	24	2	2	66.2	65	17	76
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	2-1	4.18	11	10	0	51.2	48	23	47
18	Yoshinobu Yamamoto	R-R	5-10	176	8/17/98	LOS ANGELES NL	12-8	2.49	30	30	0	173.2	113	59	201

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
68	Dalton Rushing	L-R	5-11	220	2/21/01	LOS ANGELES NL	.204	53	142	15	29	4	24	10	58	0
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	.314	35	118	26	37	5	19	26	32	1
16	Will Smith	R-R	5-10	195	3/28/95	LOS ANGELES NL	.296	110	362	64	107	17	61	64	89	2

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
50	Mookie Betts	R-R	5-10	180	10/7/92	LOS ANGELES NL	.258	150	589	95	152	20	82	61	68	8
25	Tommy Edman	S-R	5-9	193	5/9/95	LOS ANGELES NL	.225	97	346	49	78	13	49	19	61	3
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	.286	5	14	1	4	0	0	3	2	0
76	Alex Freeland	S-R	6-0	200	8/24/01	LOS ANGELES NL	.190	29	84	10	16	2	6	11	35	1
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	.263	106	415	77	109	16	82	83	111	18
5	Freddie Freeman	L-R	6-4	220	9/12/89	LOS ANGELES NL	.295	147	556	81	164	24	90	60	128	6
6	Hyeseong Kim	L-R	5-10	175	1/27/99	LOS ANGELES NL	.280	71	161	19	45	3	17	7	52	13
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	.268	37	149	27	40	5	22	13	42	14
13	Max Muncy	L-R	5-10	215	8/25/90	LOS ANGELES NL	.243	100	313	48	76	19	67	64	83	4
						Oklahoma City (AAA)	.318	8	22	4	7	1	3	3	9	0
72	Miguel Rojas	R-R	5-11	188	2/24/89	LOS ANGELES NL	.262	114	290	35	76	7	27	24	46	5

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
12	Alex Call	R-R	5-11	189	9/27/94	LOS ANGELES NL	.247	38	73	13	18	2	5	10	19	1
						WASHINGTON	.274	72	197	30	54	3	26	26	36	1
37	Teoscar Hernández	R-R	6-0	215	10/15/92	LOS ANGELES NL	.247	134	511	65	126	25	89	26	134	5
						R. Cucamonga (A)	.000	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0
17	Shohei Ohtani	L-R	6-3	210	7/5/94	LOS ANGELES NL	.282	158	611	146	172	55	102	109	187	20
44	Andy Pages	R-R	6-1	212	12/8/00	LOS ANGELES NL	.272	156	581	74	158	27	86	29	135	14
	Michael Siani	L-L	5-11	195	7/16/99	ST. LOUIS	.235	19	17	4	4	0	0	2	7	0
						Memphis (AAA)	.209	101	368	64	77	8	41	50	106	28
	Ryan Ward	L-R	5-10	200	2/23/98	Oklahoma City (AAA)	.290	143	566	113	164	36	122	83	122	16

San Diego PADRES

2026 PREDICTION

2ND

NL WEST

2025 FINISH: 2ND (90-72)

The Padres head into the 2026 season once again chasing the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West. This time, they have the additional challenges of breaking in rookie manager Craig Stammen and facing an uncertain ownership situation.

Manager Mike Shildt announced his retirement a little more than two weeks after the season ended, although he popped up a few months later in a player development role with the Baltimore Orioles. General manager A.J. Preller then turned to Stammen, who's just four seasons removed from throwing his last pitch in the big leagues and has no managerial or coaching experience. A week later, the Seidler family announced it was exploring selling the team. The Padres have won 90 games in consecutive seasons for the first time and made the playoffs for the fourth time in six seasons in 2025, but 2026 could be a grind unless Preller can wheel and deal them back into October.

ROTATION

The Padres got a desperately needed dose of good news around Christmas when righthander Michael King agreed to a three-year, $75 million free-agent deal to return to the Padres and lead the rotation. He missed half of last season with shoulder and knee injuries, and the Padres are hoping he'll still be the guy who struck out 11 in five scoreless innings in his second start of the season. Nick Pivetta returns after doing the heavy lifting last season with King sidelined for most of the summer, Joe Musgrove out while rehabbing from Tommy John surgery and Dylan Cease having an uneven season. Pivetta went 13-5 with a 2.87 ERA and 190 strikeouts in 181.2 innings. He was rumored to be on the trade block to clear some payroll. Musgrove, the big hometown righthander, will be back after missing 2025. But the rotation thins out after that because Cease signed a $210 million, seven-year free-agent deal with Toronto, and 39-year-old righty Yu Darvish had UCL surgery with an internal brace and might retire, although he'll miss all of 2026 even if he doesn't. If Pivetta stays, the candidates for the final two spots in the rotation would be righthander Randy Vásquez and lefties JP Sears and Kyle Hart. Vasquez was third on the team with 26 starts, going 6-7 with a 3.84 ERA.

BULLPEN

While the rotation is thin, the bullpen is packed. The Padres became the first team in history to send three relievers to the All-Star game, and then they traded for fireballer Mason Miller during a flurry of deals at the trade deadline. However, All-Star Jason Adam suffered a season-ending ruptured quadriceps tendon on Sept. 1, and then closer Robert Suarez, who had an NL-high 40 saves, signed with Atlanta. Adam could be back around Opening Day if his recovery goes well. Preller deflected talk that Miller, workhorse Adrian Morejon — the Padres' other All-Star reliever — or David Morgan could be moved to the rotation due to the lack of starters. Morejon made 75 appearances last year, second-most on the team, with a 2.08 ERA, 70 strikeouts and a 0.896 WHIP. Miller had a 0.77 ERA and 45 strikeouts in 23.1 innings with the Padres. He got his first taste of the playoffs and responded by striking out all eight batters

FERNANDO TATIS JR.

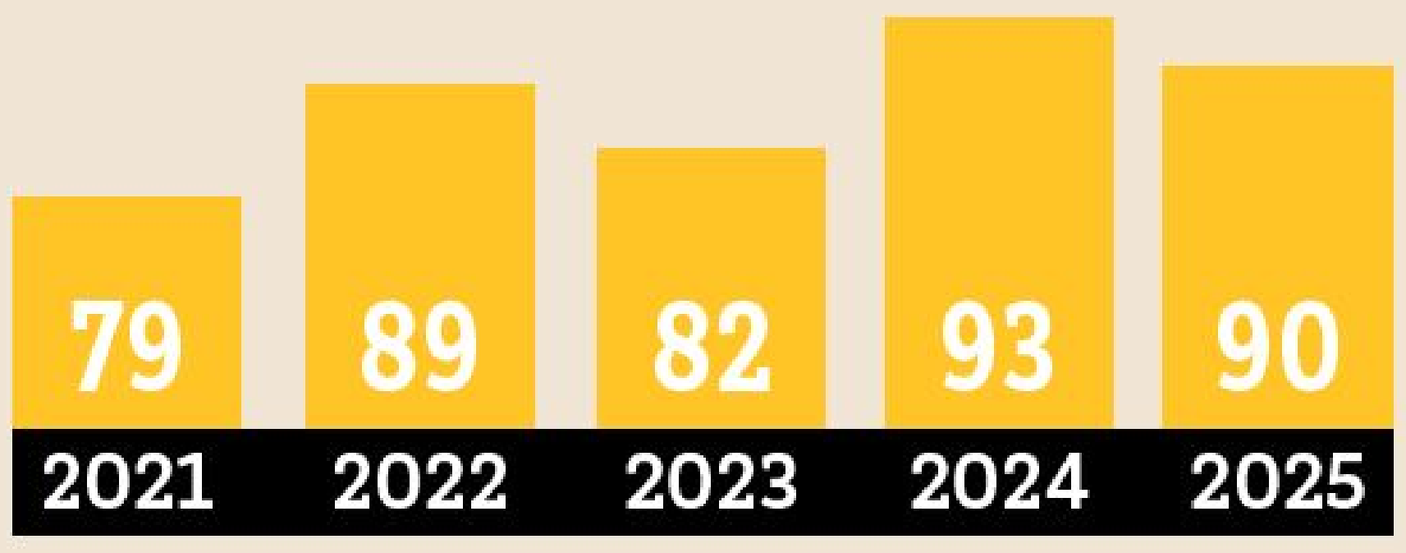
JONATHAN HUI-IMAGN IMAGES

Petco Park

Opened: 2004 • Capacity: 39,860
Left: 334' Center: 396' Right: 322'
Tickets: 619-795-5555
mlb.com/PADRES

◆

5-Year Win Trend



◆

Statline

Highest single-season team strand rate, 2023-25 pitchers

1. 2024 Brewers	76.7%
2. 2025 Padres	**76.0%**
3. 2025 Rangers	75.8%
4. 2024 Guardians	75.7%
5. 2023 Padres	**75.6%**

he faced, including striking out Carson Kelly on a 104.5-mph fastball that was the fastest recorded pitch in the postseason since 2008. He is expected to replace Suarez as the closer. Others in the bullpen are Jeremiah Estrada, Wandy Peralta, Yuki Matsui and Bradgley Rodriguez.

MIDDLE INFIELD

There were plenty of trade rumors swirling around the Padres around the time of the Winter Meetings, including chatter that the Padres could move either shortstop Xander Bogaerts or second baseman Jake Cronenworth — or both. Bogaerts is one of three Padres with huge contracts, and he still has eight years and $203.6 million left on his deal. Bogaerts suffered a non-displaced fracture of his left foot on Aug. 27 but returned for the last five games and the wild-card series. Cronenworth has five years and $61.4 million left on his deal. He's been a solid player since making his debut during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

CORNERS

Third baseman Manny Machado continues to be the Padres' leader and earned his seventh All-Star nod in his age-32 season. He hit a team-high 27 home runs and ranked second with a .275 average and .795 OPS. He played in 159 games, the most since he joined the Padres as a free agent in 2019. He's entering the fourth season of an 11-year, $350 million extension he signed in 2023. The Padres' plans at first base weren't crystal clear heading into the new year. Luis Arraez was a free agent after a down year and expressed interest in returning to San Diego. If Arraez doesn't re-sign, first base could be manned by Gavin Sheets or Cronenworth. The Padres signed Korean free agent Sung-Mun Song, an All-Star infielder, to a three-year deal hours after re-signing King. He could play second base, with Cronenworth sliding over to first base.

MANNY MACHADO

JEFF CURRY-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

The Padres have a solid outfield of All-Star right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr., center fielder Jackson Merrill and left fielder Ramón Laureano. Tatis was rewarded for his spectacular defense — including robbing several home runs — with his second Gold Glove and second NL Platinum Glove. He also made his third All-Star team. Laureano was one of Preller's many trade deadline acquisitions — and one of the most important. He had 49 hits, nine homers and 30 RBIs in 50 games before breaking his right index finger on Sept. 24 and missing the wild-card round. Merrill, the 2024 NL Rookie of the Year runner-up to Pittsburgh's Paul Skenes, had three stints on the injured list in the first five months before having a hot September. He hit seven of his 16 homers that month.

PROJECTED LINEUP

▪ LINEUP

RF	Fernando Tatis Jr. (R)
CF	Jackson Merrill (L)
3B	Manny Machado (R)
LF	Ramón Laureano, (R)
DH	Gavin Sheets (L)
1B	Jake Cronenworth (L)
SS	Xander Bogaerts (R)
C	Freddy Fermin (R)
2B	Sung-Mun Song (L)

▪ BENCH

C	Luis Campusano (R)
1B	Mason McCoy (R)
OF	Bryce Johnson (S)
INF	Will Wagner (L)

▪ ROTATION

RHP	Michael King
RHP	Nick Pivetta
RHP	Joe Musgrove
RHP	Randy Vásquez
LHP	JP Sears

▪ BULLPEN

RHP	Mason Miller (C)
LHP	Adrian Morejon
RHP	Jeremiah Estrada
RHP	David Morgan
LHP	Wandy Peralta
LHP	Yuki Matsui
RHP	Bradgley Rodriguez
RHP	Ron Marinaccio

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE PADRES "They're a mess. When you've got three guys on $300 million contracts, I don't know how you can stop. But they're not shopping in that range anymore, and they'll have to get more and more creative to stay competitive. Xander Bogaerts has no range, and his offense has dipped dramatically, which everyone saw coming except the Padres. But generally, A.J. Preller doesn't miss on talent. He outdrafts everybody, in my opinion, and you see it with guys like Jackson Merrill and the depth he always has to use for trades. He flipped a couple of fifth/sixth starter types for Freddy Fermin, a catcher I really like who was blocked in Kansas City. And the bullpen is a real strength with Mason Miller, Jason Adam and Adrian Morejon. But there's just not enough starting pitching. Everybody knew the Yu Darvish extension was crazy, and now he may never pitch again."

CATCHING

Freddy Fermin moved into the starting role after San Diego acquired him from Kansas City on July 31 for a rather high price — pitchers Ryan Bergert and Stephen Kolek, both of whom had been used as starters. Fermin is an upgrade over Elias Díaz and Martín Maldonado. Luis Campusano, who spent most of 2025 at Triple-A El Paso, is expected to be the backup.

DH/BENCH

The signing of Song from Korea gives the Padres some roster flexibility. He's the latest position player to jump from Korea to the big leagues and arrives two seasons after countryman Ha-Seong Kim left the Padres as a free agent. Song is a left-handed hitter who has blossomed into a promising power threat. Song says he envisions being a utility player off the bench, but he could slide into the lineup at second base or occasionally spell Machado at third base. Other candidates for bench spots are infielders Will Wagner and Mason McCoy and outfielders Bryce Johnson and Tirso Ornelas.

MANAGEMENT

Stammen retired in August 2023 after it became clear he wouldn't bounce back from a shoulder injury sustained during spring training. He became an assistant to the major league coaching staff and the baseball operations department. He went from helping interview candidates to getting an interview himself and then getting the job. The former reliever is well-liked and respected in the clubhouse and front office. Pitching coach Ruben Niebla didn't get the manager's job after interviewing but was given the additional title of associate manager. Preller dealt several prospects during his trade deadline binge, and the Padres don't seem inclined to spend big on free agents.

FINAL ANALYSIS

It's hard to imagine the Padres being strong contenders to win the NL West, but they certainly could be contenders for a club-record third straight playoff appearance as a wild-card team. They had chances to overtake the Dodgers last season but sputtered late and then hit the wall in losing to the Chicago Cubs in three games in the wild-card round. Preller is certainly capable of swinging impactful deals, as he did at the deadline, which cost him several key prospects. It'll take a strong performance on the field, under a rookie manager, to overcome all the uncertainty off the field.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

MOMENT IN THE SUN Rookie manager Craig Stammen is best known for starting the deciding Game 3 of the 2020 wild-card series against the St. Louis Cardinals, who at the time were managed by Mike Shildt. He pitched 1.2 innings as the first of nine pitchers the Padres used in the 4-0 win, which clinched their first postseason series victory since 1998.

REPPING THE DR Third baseman Manny Machado and right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. will play for manager Albert Pujols on the loaded Dominican Republic team in the 2026 World Baseball Classic. Machado will appear in his third WBC while Tatis will be making his debut in the global tournament. One of the biggest moments in WBC history came at Petco Park in 2017 when Machado was robbed of a home run by then-Baltimore teammate and San Diego native Adam Jones of Team USA.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER The Padres will be the visiting team against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Mexico City on April 25 and 26 as part of MLB's World Tour. It will be the third regular-season visit by MLB to Mexico City following the 2023 series between the Padres and San Francisco Giants and the 2024 set between the Colorado Rockies and Houston Astros. This will be the Padres' fifth trip to Mexico for regular-season games. They've also played four exhibition games south of the border.

Schedule

■ HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25	26 ■ DET	27 ■ DET	28 ■ DET
29	30 ■ SF	31 ■ SF	1 ■ SF	2	3 ▨ BOS	4 ▨ BOS
5 ▨ BOS	6 ▨ PIT	7 ▨ PIT	8 ▨ PIT	9 ■ COL	10 ■ COL	11 ■ COL
12 ■ COL	13	14 ■ SEA	15 ■ SEA	16 ■ SEA	17 ▨ LAA	18 ▨ LAA
19 ▨ LAA	20	21 ▨ COL	22 ▨ COL	23 ▨ COL	24	25 ▨ ARI
26 ▨ ARI	27 ■ CHC	28 ■ CHC	29 ■ CHC	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ■ CWS	2 ■ CWS
3 ■ CWS	4 ▨ SF	5 ▨ SF	6 ▨ SF	7 ■ STL	8 ■ STL	9 ■ STL
10 ■ STL	11	12 ▨ MIL	13 ▨ MIL	14 ▨ MIL	15 ▨ SEA	16 ▨ SEA
17 ▨ SEA	18 ■ LAD	19 ■ LAD	20 ■ LAD	21	22 ■ A's	23 ■ A's
24 ■ A's	25 ■ PHI	26 ■ PHI	27 ■ PHI	28	29 ▨ WAS	30 ▨ WAS
31 ▨ WAS						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2 ▨ PHI	3 ▨ PHI	4 ▨ PHI	5 ■ NYM	6 ■ NYM
7 ■ NYM	8 ■ CIN	9 ■ CIN	10 ■ CIN	11	12 ▨ BAL	13 ▨ BAL
14 ▨ BAL	15 ▨ STL	16 ▨ STL	17 ▨ STL	18	19 ▨ TEX	20 ▨ TEX
21 ▨ TEX	22 ■ ATL	23 ■ ATL	24 ■ ATL	25	26 ■ LAD	27 ■ LAD
28 ■ LAD	29 ▨ CHC	30 ▨ CHC				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 ▨ CHC	2 ▨ LAD	3 ▨ LAD	4 ▨ LAD
5 ▨ LAD	6 ■ ARI	7 ■ ARI	8 ■ ARI	9 ■ ARI	10 ■ TOR	11 ■ TOR
12 ■ TOR	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 ▨ KC	18 ▨ KC
19 ▨ KC	20 ▨ ATL	21 ▨ ATL	22 ▨ ATL	23 ▨ ATL	24 ▨ MIA	25 ▨ MIA
26 ▨ MIA	27	28 ■ COL	29 ■ COL	30 ■ SF	31 ■ SF	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 ■ SF
2 ■ SF	3 ▨ ARI	4 ▨ ARI	5 ▨ ARI	6 ▨ ARI	7 ■ HOU	8 ■ HOU
9 ■ HOU	10 ■ MIL	11 ■ MIL	12 ■ MIL	13	14 ▨ CLE	15 ▨ CLE
16 ▨ CLE	17 ▨ NYM	18 ▨ NYM	19 ▨ NYM	20	21 ■ MIN	22 ■ MIN
23 ■ MIN	24 ■ PIT	25 ■ PIT	26 ■ PIT	27	28 ▨ TB	29 ▨ TB
30 ▨ TB	31 ▨ CIN					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 ▨ CIN	2 ▨ CIN	3	4 ■ NYY	5 ■ NYY
6 ■ NYY	7 ■ WAS	8 ■ WAS	9 ■ WAS	10	11 ▨ SF	12 ▨ SF
13 ▨ SF	14 ▨ COL	15 ▨ COL	16 ▨ COL	17 ▨ COL	18 ■ MIA	19 ■ MIA
20 ■ MIA	21	22 ▨ LAD	23 ▨ LAD	24 ▨ LAD	25 ■ ARI	26 ■ ARI
27 ■ ARI	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

3 The Padres are aiming for a club-record third straight playoff appearance.

◆

6 Full-time managers since the start of the 2015 season.

◆

104.5 In mph, the fastest pitch in the playoffs since 2008, by Mason Miller in Game 2 of the wild-card series vs. Chicago.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

JOE CAMPOREALE-IMAGN IMAGES

- **1. Ethan Salas, C (19)** Defense is rock-solid, but the bat needs work (.188 BA in 10 Double-A games last season).

2. Kruz Schoolcraft, LHP (18) 2025 first-rounder is 6-foot-8 and has a 97-mph fastball.

3. Humberto Cruz, RHP (19) Underwent a UCL repair with an internal brace in September.

4. Kash Mayfield, LHP (21) 2024 first-round draft pick's ETA to the majors is 2028.

5. Miguel Mendez, RHP (23) Was added to the 40-man roster and is expected to start the season in Double-A.

6. Bradgley Rodriguez, RHP (22) Went 1-0 with a 1.17 ERA in seven big-league appearances after a late May callup.

7. Jorge Quintana, SS/3B (18) The switch-hitter brings quickness and arm strength to the infield.

8. Kale Fountain, 3B/1B (20) Generates raw power with his 6-foot-5, 225-pound frame.

9. Deivid Coronil, 3B/SS (18) The 6-foot-3 international signee has big defensive upside.

10. Jagger Haynes, LHP (23) The 2020 fifth-round pick has overcome injuries and reached Double-A in 2025.

Padres Roster

President of Baseball Operations and General Manager: A.J. Preller • **Manager:** Craig Stammen • **Coaches:** Brian Esposito (bench), Ben Fritz (bullpen), Bob Henley (third base), Randy Knorr (bench), David Macias (first base, outfield and base running), Mike McCoy (asst. hitting), Ruben Niebla (pitching/associate manager), Pat O'Sullivan (asst. hitting), Kevin Plawecki (catching), Nick Punto (infield), Steven Souza Jr. (hitting)

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
	Daison Acosta	R-R	6-2	160	8/24/98	Rochester (AAA)	1-0	4.71	19	0	0	21.0	20	15	24
						Harrisburg (AA)	4-1	0.90	26	0	5	30.0	16	12	46
						Fredericksburg (A)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	1.0	0	0	2
40	Jason Adam	R-R	6-3	229	8/4/91	**SAN DIEGO**	**8-4**	**1.93**	**65**	**0**	**0**	**65.1**	**50**	**25**	**70**
	Ty Adcock	R-R	6-0	213	2/7/97	**NEW YORK NL**	**0-0**	**3.00**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**3.0**	**2**	**2**	**5**
						Syracuse (AAA)	1-3	4.66	31	1	3	36.2	25	14	35
76	Jhony Brito	R-R	6-2	210	2/17/98	Injured — Missed Season									
11	Yu Darvish	R-R	6-5	220	8/16/86	**SAN DIEGO**	**5-5**	**5.38**	**15**	**15**	**0**	**72.0**	**66**	**19**	**68**
						El Paso (AAA)	0-1	4.50	1	1	0	4.0	2	1	4
56	Jeremiah Estrada	S-R	6-1	185	11/1/98	**SAN DIEGO**	**4-5**	**3.45**	**77**	**0**	**3**	**73.0**	**58**	**27**	**108**
68	Kyle Hart	L-L	6-5	200	11/23/92	**SAN DIEGO**	**3-3**	**5.86**	**20**	**6**	**0**	**43.0**	**38**	**13**	**37**
						El Paso (AAA)	3-4	4.10	20	10	0	63.2	64	34	52
	Garrett Hawkins	R-R	6-5	230	2/10/00	San Antonio (AA)	1-0	1.69	13	0	2	16.0	11	10	20
						Fort Wayne (A+)	8-1	1.43	32	0	8	44.0	17	13	60
78	Bryan Hoeing	R-R	6-6	210	10/19/96	**SAN DIEGO**	**1-0**	**3.38**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**8.0**	**9**	**3**	**5**
						El Paso (AAA)	1-0	4.70	14	0	0	15.1	21	6	16
						San Antonio (AA)	1-0	0.00	2	0	0	2.0	1	0	3
						ACL Padres (R)	0-0	33.75	2	2	0	1.1	6	0	2
37	Alek Jacob	L-R	6-3	190	6/16/98	**SAN DIEGO**	**1-0**	**5.13**	**29**	**0**	**0**	**33.1**	**36**	**14**	**23**
						El Paso (AAA)	4-2	5.27	26	0	2	27.1	23	17	39
34	Michael King	R-R	6-3	210	5/25/95	**SAN DIEGO**	**5-3**	**3.44**	**15**	**15**	**0**	**73.1**	**62**	**26**	**76**
						El Paso (AAA)	0-0	16.20	1	1	0	3.1	4	1	5
97	Ron Marinaccio	R-R	6-2	205	7/1/95	**SAN DIEGO**	**0-0**	**0.84**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**10.2**	**6**	**4**	**12**
						El Paso (AAA)	6-0	5.05	41	0	6	46.1	48	21	51
1	Yuki Matsui	L-L	5-8	165	10/30/95	**SAN DIEGO**	**3-1**	**3.98**	**61**	**0**	**1**	**63.1**	**53**	**33**	**61**
	Miguel Mendez	R-R	6-2	165	7/1/02	San Antonio (AA)	0-4	8.06	6	6	0	22.1	22	17	30
						Fort Wayne (A+)	7-3	1.32	12	12	0	61.1	38	24	70
						Lake Elsinore (A)	1-0	3.97	3	3	0	11.1	11	4	18
22	Mason Miller	R-R	6-5	200	8/24/98	**SAN DIEGO**	**0-0**	**0.77**	**22**	**0**	**2**	**23.1**	**7**	**10**	**45**
						ATHLETICS	**1-2**	**3.76**	**38**	**0**	**20**	**38.1**	**21**	**18**	**59**
50	Adrian Morejon	L-L	5-11	224	2/27/99	**SAN DIEGO**	**13-6**	**2.08**	**75**	**0**	**3**	**73.2**	**49**	**17**	**70**
66	David Morgan	R-R	6-0	185	10/26/99	**SAN DIEGO**	**1-2**	**2.66**	**41**	**2**	**0**	**47.1**	**35**	**23**	**50**
						El Paso (AAA)	0-2	12.71	7	0	0	5.2	8	1	11
						San Antonio (AA)	0-0	3.12	7	0	0	8.2	9	1	19
44	Joe Musgrove	R-R	6-5	230	12/4/92	Injured — Missed Season									
58	Wandy Peralta	L-L	6-0	227	7/27/91	**SAN DIEGO**	**6-1**	**3.14**	**71**	**1**	**0**	**71.2**	**66**	**30**	**63**
27	Nick Pivetta	R-R	6-5	210	2/14/93	**SAN DIEGO**	**13-5**	**2.87**	**31**	**31**	**0**	**181.2**	**129**	**50**	**190**
72	Bradgley Rodriguez	R-R	6-1	160	11/16/03	**SAN DIEGO**	**1-0**	**1.17**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**7.2**	**4**	**3**	**9**
						El Paso (AAA)	2-0	3.14	15	0	0	14.1	9	11	7
						San Antonio (AA)	4-0	3.22	18	0	5	22.1	15	5	31
38	JP Sears	R-L	5-11	180	2/19/96	**SAN DIEGO**	**2-2**	**5.47**	**5**	**5**	**0**	**24.2**	**31**	**7**	**20**
						El Paso (AAA)	1-0	3.29	4	4	0	13.2	12	6	16
						ATHLETICS	**7-9**	**4.95**	**22**	**22**	**0**	**111.0**	**112**	**29**	**97**
98	Randy Vásquez	R-R	6-0	165	11/3/98	**SAN DIEGO**	**6-7**	**3.84**	**28**	**26**	**0**	**133.2**	**125**	**52**	**78**
						El Paso (AAA)	0-1	5.63	2	2	0	8.0	7	5	6
61	Matt Waldron	R-R	6-2	185	9/26/96	**SAN DIEGO**	**0-1**	**7.71**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**4.2**	**6**	**6**	**3**
						El Paso (AAA)	7-4	6.67	18	18	0	82.1	102	26	76
						San Antonio (AA)	0-0	4.26	2	2	0	6.1	8	3	6
						ACL Padres (R)	0-0	5.40	1	1	0	1.2	2	1	3

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
12	Luis Campusano	R-R	5-10	232	9/29/98	**SAN DIEGO**	**.000**	**10**	**21**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**11**	**0**
						El Paso (AAA)	.336	105	393	83	132	25	95	72	82	2
54	Freddy Fermin	R-R	5-10	200	5/16/95	**SAN DIEGO**	**.244**	**42**	**127**	**15**	**31**	**2**	**14**	**6**	**28**	**0**
						KANSAS CITY	**.255**	**67**	**192**	**17**	**49**	**3**	**12**	**13**	**37**	**1**

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
2	Xander Bogaerts	R-R	6-2	218	10/1/92	**SAN DIEGO**	**.263**	**136**	**491**	**63**	**129**	**11**	**53**	**48**	**94**	**20**
9	Jake Cronenworth	L-R	6-0	187	1/21/94	**SAN DIEGO**	**.246**	**135**	**419**	**61**	**103**	**11**	**59**	**69**	**107**	**3**
						El Paso (AAA)	.500	2	4	5	2	1	2	4	2	0
						ACL Padres (R)	.333	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
13	Manny Machado	R-R	6-2	218	7/06/92	**SAN DIEGO**	**.275**	**159**	**615**	**91**	**169**	**27**	**95**	**55**	**131**	**14**
18	Mason McCoy	R-R	5-11	185	3/31/95	**SAN DIEGO**	**.136**	**18**	**22**	**5**	**3**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**7**	**2**
						El Paso (AAA)	.272	90	331	62	90	11	59	43	99	17
	Sung-Mun Song	L-R	6-0	194	8/29/96	Kiwoom Heroes (Korea)	.315	144	574	103	181	26	90	68	96	25
24	Will Wagner	L-R	6-0	210	7/29/98	**SAN DIEGO**	**.133**	**15**	**15**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**0**
						El Paso (AAA)	.270	17	74	10	20	2	17	7	8	1
						TORONTO	**.237**	**40**	**114**	**13**	**27**	**0**	**7**	**15**	**26**	**1**
						Buffalo (AAA)	.268	18	71	13	19	3	13	8	12	1
						Dunedin (A)	.000	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
						FCL Blue Jays (R)	.364	4	11	0	4	0	0	1	0	0

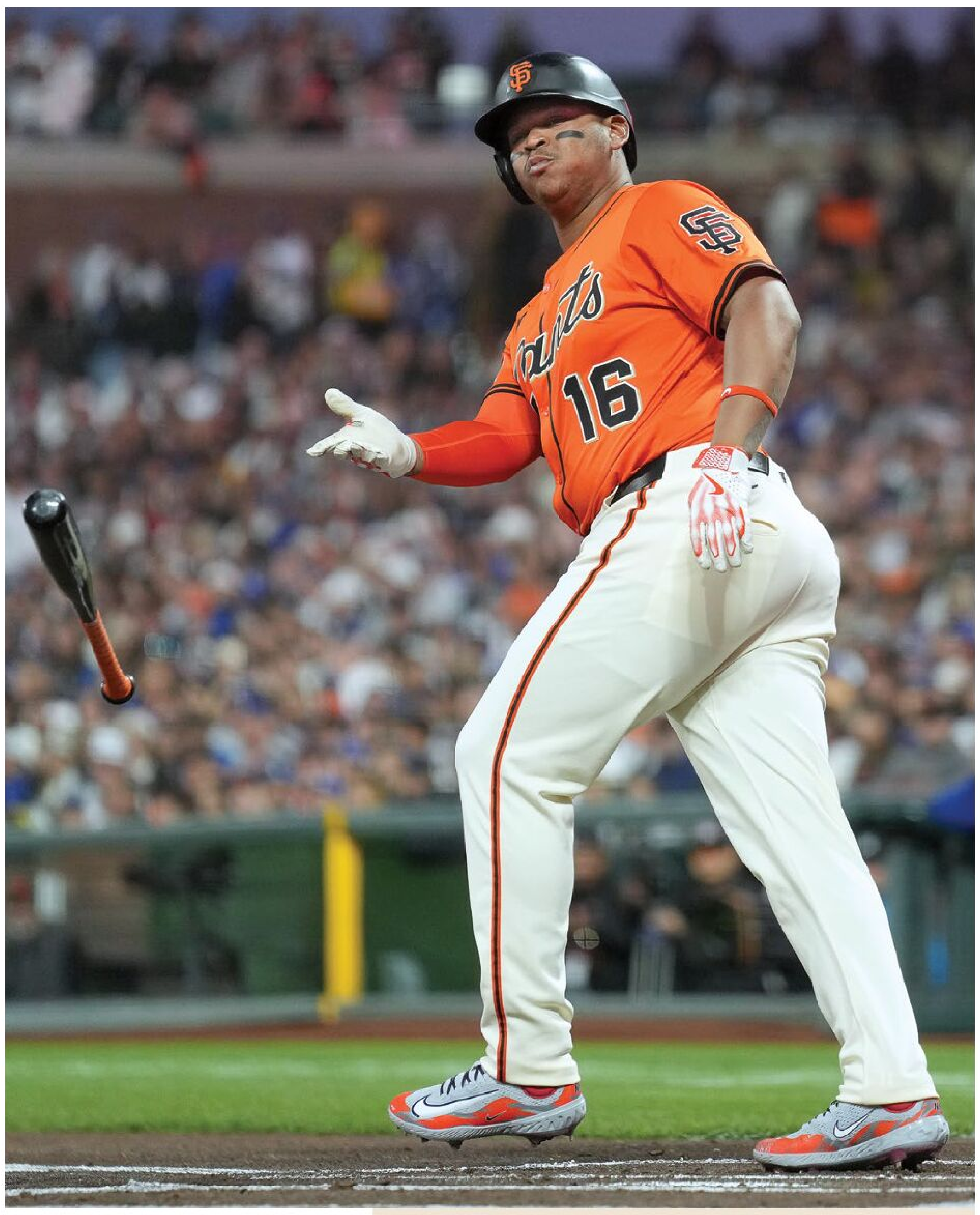
No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
29	Bryce Johnson	S-R	6-0	190	10/27/95	**SAN DIEGO**	**.342**	**55**	**76**	**9**	**26**	**1**	**8**	**3**	**19**	**4**
						El Paso (AAA)	.303	42	142	28	43	3	22	22	40	10
						Indianapolis (AAA)	.080	10	25	1	2	0	1	3	9	1
5	Ramón Laureano	R-R	5-10	203	7/15/94	**SAN DIEGO**	**.269**	**50**	**182**	**27**	**49**	**9**	**30**	**13**	**47**	**3**
						BALTIMORE	**.290**	**82**	**259**	**45**	**75**	**15**	**46**	**22**	**72**	**4**
						Norfolk (AAA)	.375	2	8	3	3	1	1	0	2	0
3	Jackson Merrill	L-R	6-3	195	4/19/03	**SAN DIEGO**	**.264**	**115**	**440**	**59**	**116**	**16**	**67**	**33**	**108**	**1**
						San Antonio (AA)	.333	2	6	2	2	0	0	1	2	0
21	Tirso Ornelas	L-R	6-3	200	3/11/00	**SAN DIEGO**	**.071**	**7**	**14**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**0**
						El Paso (AAA)	.289	82	318	63	92	10	57	46	64	7
30	Gavin Sheets	L-L	6-3	235	4/23/96	**SAN DIEGO**	**.252**	**145**	**492**	**57**	**124**	**19**	**71**	**44**	**107**	**2**
23	Fernando Tatis Jr.	R-R	6-3	217	1/2/99	**SAN DIEGO**	**.268**	**155**	**594**	**111**	**159**	**25**	**71**	**89**	**129**	**32**

San Francisco GIANTS

2026 PREDICTION
3RD
NL WEST
2025 FINISH: 3RD (81-81)

Giants president Buster Posey ventured well outside the box while putting one of his most important stamps on the organization, concluding his search for a manager by selecting University of Tennessee head coach Tony Vitello to bring fresh energy and perspective to the dugout. There is no modern precedent for a hiring like Vitello, who comes to the Giants with zero professional playing or coaching experience.

Vitello steps into an organization that expects to win and contend from Day 1. His predecessor, Bob Melvin, was fired because an 81-81 season wasn't good enough. Vitello's every move will be watched and assessed by a curious baseball world, but a manager's success is most directly determined by the talent level of his roster. Unlike last year, when the Giants signed Willy Adames and traded for Rafael Devers, Posey took no big swings in what's been an uninspiring offseason. A lot of the Giants' improvement will have to come from within. No pressure, Tony V.



RAFAEL DEVERS

DARREN YAMASHITA-IMAGN IMAGES

ROTATION

Logan Webb led the NL in innings for the third consecutive season while also leading the NL in strikeouts and capturing his first Gold Glove. Robbie Ray joined Webb on the NL All-Star team before fading down the stretch, which was predictable for a 33-year-old who hadn't thrown a full season since 2022. The Giants will rely on Webb and Ray to form a formidable front again because they lowered their sights on the free-agent market, signing veteran strike-throwers Adrian Houser and Tyler Mahle to fill out two spots. Righthander Landen Roupp enters the spring with incumbent status, but the Giants will need at least one or two of their other young pitchers to step up this season. Hayden Birdsong has No. 1 starter potential and will be looking to put a nightmare season behind him.

BULLPEN

By almost any measure, the Giants had MLB's most valuable bullpen at the All-Star break last season. How quickly fortunes can change. The team dealt Camilo Doval and Tyler Rogers at the trade deadline, and All-Star Randy Rodriguez's right elbow gave out, leading to Tommy John surgery and a full year of rehab ahead. The Giants are left with a bit of a mess. Free-agent lefty Sam Hentges could be a solid signing if he makes a healthy return from left shoulder surgery and right knee surgery. Former Tigers closer Jason Foley is another rehabbing former late-inning arm who could be available by midseason. Vitello has no experience managing relievers through a 162-game season, so it'll make everyone's life easier if Ryan Walker can re-establish himself as a ninth-inning stopper.

MIDDLE INFIELD

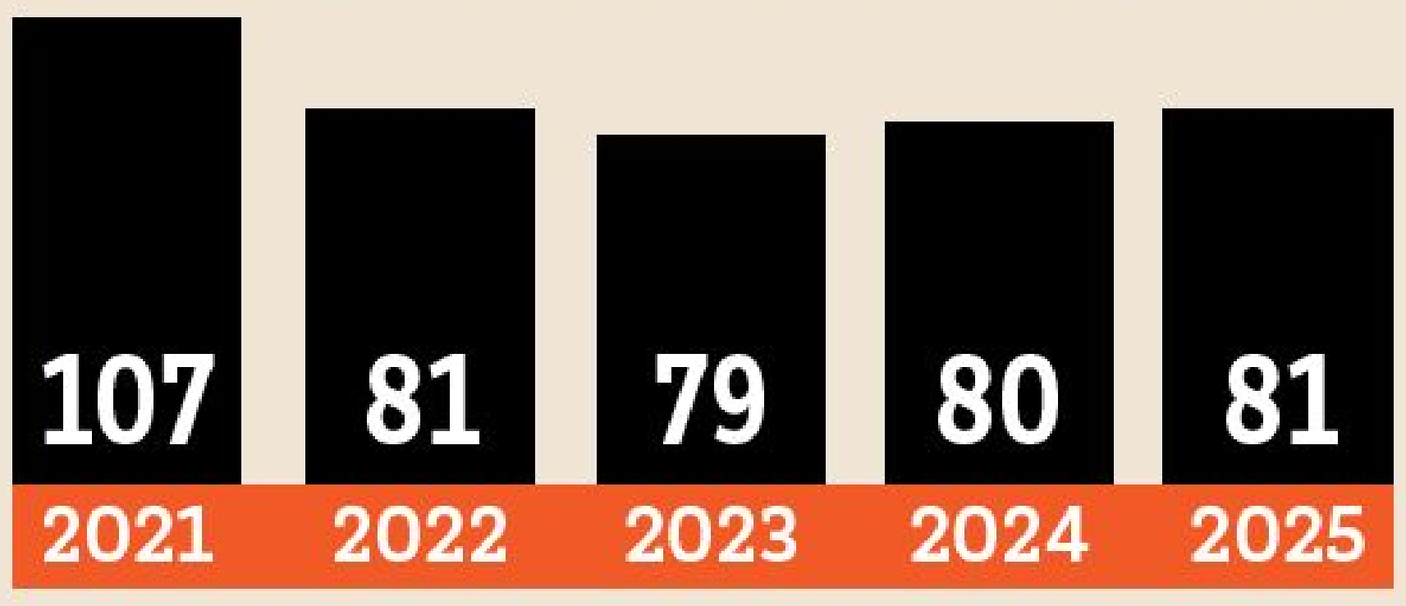
Adames got off to a disconcerting start after signing a franchise-record seven-year, $182 million contract, but he turned it on in June, hit a hot streak in July and August and became the first Giant since Barry Bonds in 2004 to hit 30

Oracle Park

Opened: 2000 • Capacity: 41,331
Left: 339' Center: 391' Right: 309'
Tickets: 415-972-2209
mlb.com/GIANTS

◆

5-Year Win Trend



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Statline

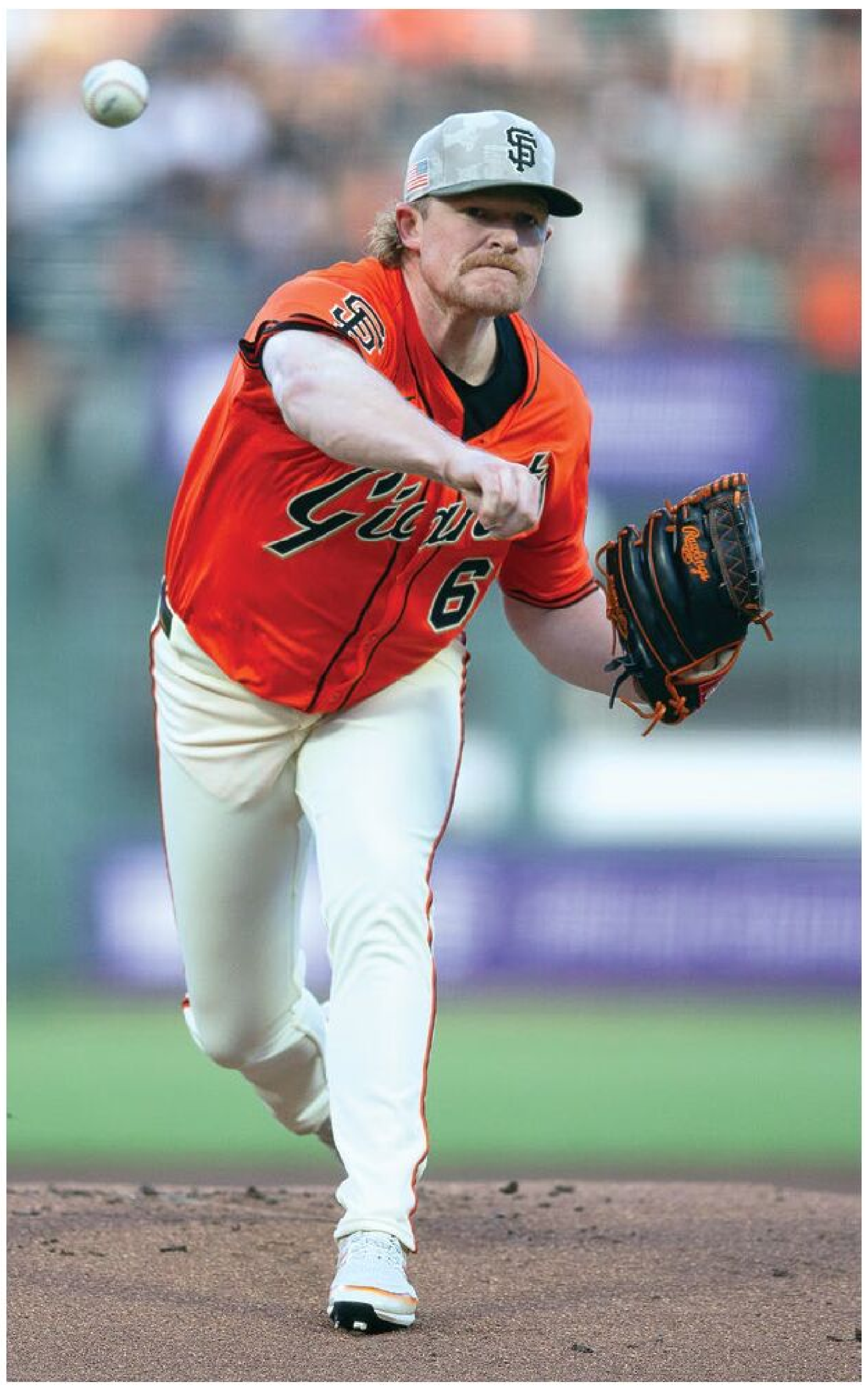
Most single-season catching framing runs, 2018-25

1.	**Patrick Bailey, Giants, 2025**	**25**
T2.	**Patrick Bailey, Giants, 2024**	**23**
T2.	Austin Hedges, Padres, 2019	23
4.	Jose Trevino, Yankees, 2022	19
T5.	**Patrick Bailey, Giants, 2023**	**17**
T5.	Alejandro Kirk, Blue Jays, 2025	17

home runs in a season. His defensive metrics at shortstop got better and better as the season progressed, too. The Giants were active on the trade front for a second baseman but entered the new year with Casey Schmitt still penciled in as the starter. He's made steady progress from his free-swinging ways as a rookie, and his plus-plus arm strength comes in handy when turning double plays. He's coming off wrist surgery, so his health will bear watching. Last year's opening day second baseman, Tyler Fitzgerald, is still on the 40-man roster but will have to make more consistent contact to get another opportunity for playing time.

CORNERS

The Giants were a different team when third baseman Matt Chapman, who missed time because of sprained hand ligaments that required two stints on the injured list, wasn't on the field, going 68-60 in his starts and 13-21 when he was out. Chapman will turn 33 in April and still has five years remaining on his $151 million contract. He remains a premier defender whose sprint speed and bat speed have shown no major signs of slippage to date, but he's coming to the tail end of his prime years. Devers became the seventh player and first since J.D. Martinez in 2017 to hit 15 home runs for two teams in different leagues in the same season. He's the rare lefty power hitter who can make the Giants' spacious ballpark appear small, and for a former third baseman with no experience at first base, he made steady improvement with the glove.



LOGAN WEBB

OUTFIELD

Heliot Ramos didn't destroy lefty pitchers like he did in 2024, when he became the first homegrown Giants outfielder since Chili Davis in 1986 to make an All-Star team. The good news is that he did improve his production against righthanders and ended up with similar offensive numbers. The really bad news is that Ramos often appeared lost on the basepaths and in left field, where he graded out as the worst defender in baseball. A strong center fielder can help mask deficiencies in the corners, but Jung Hoo Lee was below average as well. It's imperative that the Giants see improvement from both players in 2026. Lee hasn't been the breakout star that many envisioned, but he's still young, and there's reason to believe he'll be more productive when paced a little better. Right field could be a platoon between Drew Gilbert and Jerar Encarnacion. The Giants have to figure out whether Luis Matos, who is out of options, still merits a crack at playing time.

PROJECTED LINEUP

■ LINEUP

CF	Jung Hoo Lee (L)
1B	Rafael Devers (L)
SS	Willy Adames (R)
3B	Matt Chapman (R)
DH	Bryce Eldridge (L)
LF	Heliot Ramos (R)
2B	Casey Schmitt (R)
C	Patrick Bailey (S)
RF	Drew Gilbert (L)

■ BENCH

INF	Christian Koss (R)
OF/1B	Jerar Encarnacion (R)
OF	Luis Matos (R)
C	Daniel Susac (R)

■ ROTATION

RHP	Logan Webb
LHP	Robbie Ray
RHP	Landen Roupp
RHP	Adrian Houser
RHP	Tyler Mahle

■ BULLPEN

RHP	Ryan Walker (C)
RHP	Spencer Bivens
LHP	Matt Gage
LHP	Erik Miller
LHP	Sam Hentges
RHP	Jose Buttó
RHP	Tristan Beck
RHP	Joel Peguero

SCOUTING REPORT

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP THE GIANTS "I'm very skeptical about hiring Tony Vitello straight from a college program. There's just so much that's different about the big leagues. But if Buster Posey believes in him, you know he's got a reason. They need to do whatever they can to attract players to San Francisco because nobody wants to play there anymore. That's why they had to trade for a big guy who was already signed, like Rafael Devers, and overpay for guys like Matt Chapman and Willy Adames. Chapman is really good in the field, but he's not a $150 million player, and Adames has power, but he strikes out too much, and he's just OK defensively at shortstop. Patrick Bailey is an excellent defensive catcher, but again, he just doesn't hit. I like Bryce Eldridge, but he's not ready yet, and there just aren't many everyday players at 6-foot-7 who hang around the big leagues for a while. Logan Webb is a total pro, an old-school guy at the top of that rotation, but is Robbie Ray much more than a No. 4 anymore? And how many innings can you count on from Adrian Houser? They're basically a .500 team for me, but if everything goes right, maybe they're good enough to sneak into the playoffs."

D. ROSS CAMERON-IMAGN IMAGES

CATCHING

There wasn't an ounce of drama before Patrick Bailey was announced as a Gold Glove winner for the second consecutive season. He led the majors with 25 framing runs and tied for the NL lead with 19 defensive runs saved. It'll be interesting to see whether the ball-strike challenge system cuts into Bailey's value as a framing savant, but with just two incorrect challenges per team per game, it's likely to be minimally detrimental to him. Bailey got better at blocking, and he's one of the league's best at throwing out baserunners from all sorts of improvised arm angles. His next challenge will be consistency at the plate.

DH/BENCH

Bryce Eldridge rocketed through the minor leagues and was 20 when he made his debut in September, although his promotion was more out of desperation for a team clinging to playoff hopes than a reflection of his big-league readiness. The 6-foot-7 lefty power hitter will have to win a job in camp, and whenever he's added to the roster, he and Devers will more or less lock down first base and DH in the lineup. If Eldridge needs more seasoning, Encarnacion appears to be best positioned to get additional at-bats. He's seemingly been primed for a breakout for two years, but injuries keep getting in the way.

MANAGEMENT

If Vitello begins his pro career with any credibility, it's because Posey hired him. The first year of Posey's surprising tenure atop baseball operations wasn't a bottom-line success, but for a rookie executive, he displayed boldness when he signed Adames and shocked the baseball world by trading for Devers. Perhaps that shouldn't have surprised anyone. Posey showed the same boldness as a rookie catcher on the Giants' 2010 World Series championship team. His tenure, however long it lasts, might be defined by how the Vitello hiring turns out.

FINAL ANALYSIS

Vitello showed off his personality and communication skills in his introductory press conference, along with a refreshing dash of humility. He's not sure whether this will work, either. The most commonly held opinion within the industry is that the Vitello tenure will either be a smashing success or a spectacular failure. But for the Giants, who have averaged an 80-82 record over the past four seasons, one could argue that the worst result would be another year of mediocrity.

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

WEBB SLINGER Although Logan Webb remained as effective as ever at using his two-seam fastball to generate efficient outs on the ground, he also redoubled his efforts to throw more kill pitches with two strikes. As a result, he posted a career-best 9.7 K/9 ratio and became the first Giant to post a 200-inning, 200-strikeout season since Madison Bumgarner in 2019. Even more impressively, Webb became the first Giants pitcher to lead the NL in innings and strikeouts since Bill Voiselle in 1944.

THRILLING FINISHES The Giants tied the Milwaukee Brewers with an NL-best 11 walk-off victories. They've won 39 games in walk-off fashion since 2022, which is the most by any team. And Patrick Bailey, despite ranking as one of the league's least productive hitters, had the ultimate flair for the dramatic. He became the first player in MLB history to hit a walk-off grand slam and a walk-off inside-the-park home run in the same season.

SHORTSTOP OF SWAT Willy Adames became the first Giants shortstop to lead the team in home runs since Brandon Crawford in 2015. And because Adames also led the Milwaukee Brewers in homers in 2023-24, he became just the third shortstop since World War II to lead his team in homers in three consecutive seasons. The others are Ernie Banks (1955-61) and Alex Rodriguez (2000-03).

Schedule

🟧 HOME ▨ AWAY

MARCH & APRIL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			25 🟧 NYY	26	27 🟧 NYY	28 🟧 NYY
29	30 ▨ SD	31 ▨ SD	1 ▨ SD	2 🟧 NYM	3 🟧 NYM	4 🟧 NYM
5 🟧 NYM	6 🟧 PHI	7 🟧 PHI	8 🟧 PHI	9	10 ▨ BAL	11 ▨ BAL
12 ▨ BAL	13	14 ▨ CIN	15 ▨ CIN	16 ▨ CIN	17 ▨ WAS	18 ▨ WAS
19 ▨ WAS	20	21 🟧 LAD	22 🟧 LAD	23 🟧 LAD	24 🟧 MIA	25 🟧 MIA
26 🟧 MIA	27	28 ▨ PHI	29 ▨ PHI	30 ▨ PHI		

MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 ▨ TB	2 ▨ TB
3 ▨ TB	4 🟧 SD	5 🟧 SD	6 🟧 SD	7	8 🟧 PIT	9 🟧 PIT
10 🟧 PIT	11 ▨ LAD	12 ▨ LAD	13 ▨ LAD	14 ▨ LAD	15 ▨ A's	16 ▨ A's
17 ▨ A's	18 ▨ ARI	19 ▨ ARI	20 ▨ ARI	21	22 🟧 CWS	23 🟧 CWS
24 🟧 CWS	25 🟧 ARI	26 🟧 ARI	27 🟧 ARI	28	29 ▨ COL	30 ▨ COL
31 ▨ COL						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 ▨ MIL	2 ▨ MIL	3 ▨ MIL	4 ▨ MIL	5 ▨ CHC	6 ▨ CHC
7 ▨ CHC	8 🟧 WAS	9 🟧 WAS	10 🟧 WAS	11	12 🟧 CHC	13 🟧 CHC
14 🟧 CHC	15	16 ▨ ATL	17 ▨ ATL	18 ▨ ATL	19 ▨ MIA	20 ▨ MIA
21 ▨ MIA	22	23 🟧 A's	24 🟧 A's	25 🟧 A's	26 🟧 ATL	27 🟧 ATL
28 🟧 ATL	29 ▨ ARI	30 ▨ ARI				

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 ▨ ARI	2	3 ▨ COL	4 ▨ COL
5 ▨ COL	6 🟧 TOR	7 🟧 TOR	8 🟧 TOR	9 🟧 COL	10 🟧 COL	11 🟧 COL
12 🟧 COL	13 ALL-STAR BREAK	14	15	16	17 ▨ SEA	18 ▨ SEA
19 ▨ SEA	20 ▨ KC	21 ▨ KC	22 ▨ KC	23	24 🟧 LAA	25 🟧 LAA
26 🟧 LAA	27 🟧 MIL	28 🟧 MIL	29 🟧 MIL	30 ▨ SD	31 ▨ SD	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1 ▨ SD
2 ▨ SD	3 ▨ TEX	4 ▨ TEX	5 ▨ TEX	6	7 🟧 DET	8 🟧 DET
9 🟧 DET	10 🟧 HOU	11 🟧 HOU	12 🟧 HOU	13	14 🟧 COL	15 🟧 COL
16 🟧 COL	17	18 ▨ CLE	19 ▨ CLE	20 ▨ CLE	21 ▨ BOS	22 ▨ BOS
23 ▨ BOS	24 🟧 CIN	25 🟧 CIN	26 🟧 CIN	27 🟧 ARI	28 🟧 ARI	29 🟧 ARI
30 🟧 ARI	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 ▨ PIT	2 ▨ PIT	3 ▨ PIT	4 ▨ NYM	5 ▨ NYM
6 ▨ NYM	7 🟧 STL	8 🟧 STL	9 🟧 STL	10	11 🟧 SD	12 🟧 SD
13 🟧 SD	14 ▨ STL	15 ▨ STL	16 ▨ STL	17	18 ▨ LAD	19 ▨ LAD
20 ▨ LAD	21 🟧 MIN	22 🟧 MIN	23 🟧 MIN	24	25 🟧 LAD	26 🟧 LAD
27 🟧 LAD	28	29	30			

STATISTICIAN

21 Years since the Giants' last 30-homer season before Willy Adames ended the drought in game No. 162.

◆

7-19 The Giants' record against the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres last season. They were 74-62 against everyone else.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA-IMAGN IMAGES

- **1. Bryce Eldridge, 1B (21)** The 6-foot-7 power hitter should be a lineup mainstay by the end of the season.

2. Josuar Gonzalez, SS (18) A switch-hitter who has drawn Francisco Lindor comparisons.

3. Dakota Jordan, OF (22) He runs fast, he swings fast and he's got an advanced hit tool, too.

4. Jhonny Level, SS (18) A switch-hitter from Venezuela with surprising pop for his slight build.

5. Gavin Kilen, INF (21) Profiles as Joe Panik with more athleticism; he played for Tony Vitello at Tennessee.

6. Bo Davidson, OF (23) Left-handed hitter brings a tantalizing power-speed combo.

7. Trevor McDonald, RHP (25) Possesses fearlessness, talent and ability to spin the baseball.

8. Jacob Bresnahan, LHP (20) A lefty with size, projection and a developing changeup.

8. Rayner Arias, OF (19) Solidly built and with the baseball IQ that you'd expect for a scout's son.

9. Argenis Cayama, RHP (19) Has a fastball that touches 98 mph from a deceptive, three-quarters arm slot.

10. Blade Tidwell, RHP (24) The Tennessee product has struggled with injuries and command.

Giants Roster

President of Baseball Operations: Buster Posey • **Manager:** Tony Vitello • **Coaches:** Hector Borg, Jesse Chavez (bullpen), Shane Robinson, Jayce Tingler (bench), Ron Washington

No.	Pitchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
43	Tristan Beck	R-R	6-4	203	6/24/96	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**1-0**	**4.61**	**31**	**1**	**2**	**56.2**	**47**	**16**	**41**
						Sacramento (AAA)	3-0	2.59	19	0	2	31.1	21	14	38
60	Hayden Birdsong	R-R	6-4	216	8/30/01	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**4-4**	**4.80**	**21**	**10**	**0**	**65.2**	**61**	**37**	**68**
						Sacramento (AAA)	1-3	6.23	10	10	0	39.0	42	30	47
76	Spencer Bivens	R-R	6-5	217	6/28/94	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**4-3**	**4.00**	**54**	**0**	**3**	**81.0**	**83**	**25**	**61**
34	JT Brubaker	R-R	6-3	180	11/17/93	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**0-0**	**4.26**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**12.2**	**13**	**3**	**12**
						Sacramento (AAA)	1-0	1.64	3	2	0	11.0	6	5	7
						NEW YORK AL	**0-0**	**3.38**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**16.0**	**10**	**9**	**10**
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	1-0	4.63	3	3	0	11.2	7	6	11
						Somerset (AA)	0-0	1.35	2	2	0	6.2	2	3	3
70	José Buttó	R-R	6-1	202	3/19/98	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**2-1**	**4.50**	**21**	**0**	**0**	**20.0**	**19**	**10**	**17**
						NEW YORK NL	**3-2**	**3.64**	**34**	**0**	**1**	**47.0**	**43**	**22**	**41**
						Syracuse (AAA)	0-0	0.00	2	1	0	2.0	2	0	2
64	Jason Foley	R-R	6-4	215	11/1/95	Toledo (AAA)	0-0	0.00	5	0	0	6.2	1	0	9
93	Matt Gage	L-L	6-3	265	2/11/93	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**0-1**	**3.91**	**27**	**2**	**0**	**25.1**	**28**	**10**	**24**
						Sacramento (AAA)	2-0	0.00	5	0	0	5.1	2	2	4
						DETROIT	**0-0**	**0.00**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**5.2**	**7**	**2**	**3**
						Toledo (AAA)	1-1	1.67	23	1	3	32.1	27	4	28
	Sam Hentges	L-L	6-6	245	7/18/96	Injured — Missed Season									
12	Adrian Houser	R-R	6-3	242	2/2/93	**CHICAGO AL**	**6-2**	**2.10**	**11**	**11**	**0**	**68.2**	**62**	**22**	**47**
						TAMPA BAY	**2-3**	**4.79**	**10**	**10**	**0**	**56.1**	**60**	**16**	**45**
						Round Rock (AAA)	2-2	5.03	9	8	0	39.1	30	15	37
	Tyler Mahle	R-R	6-3	210	9/29/94	**TEXAS**	**6-4**	**2.18**	**16**	**16**	**0**	**86.2**	**69**	**29**	**66**
72	Trevor McDonald	R-R	6-2	201	2/26/01	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**1-0**	**1.80**	**3**	**2**	**0**	**15.0**	**13**	**2**	**14**
						Sacramento (AAA)	9-9	5.31	29	24	0	142.1	144	62	144
68	Erik Miller	L-L	6-5	268	2/13/98	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**4-1**	**1.50**	**36**	**0**	**0**	**30.0**	**24**	**20**	**22**
						Sacramento (AAA)	1-1	6.00	4	0	0	3.0	5	2	5
63	Joel Peguero	R-R	5-11	194	5/5/97	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**3-1**	**2.42**	**17**	**0**	**0**	**22.1**	**15**	**8**	**17**
						Sacramento (AAA)	2-2	5.10	35	0	0	42.1	45	23	46
38	Robbie Ray	L-L	6-2	208	10/1/91	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**11-8**	**3.65**	**32**	**32**	**0**	**182.1**	**148**	**73**	**186**
73	Randy Rodríguez	R-R	6-0	195	9/5/99	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**3-5**	**1.78**	**50**	**0**	**4**	**50.2**	**34**	**11**	**67**
65	Landen Roupp	R-R	6-2	215	9/10/98	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**7-7**	**3.80**	**22**	**22**	**0**	**106.2**	**113**	**45**	**102**
						Sacramento (AAA)	0-0	6.00	1	1	0	3.0	3	0	4
	Reiver Sanmartin	L-L	6-2	160	4/15/96	**CINCINNATI**	**0-0**	**0.00**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1.2**	**2**	**1**	**2**
						Louisville (AAA)	7-2	2.67	46	2	0	67.1	65	18	55
77	Carson Seymour	R-R	6-6	255	12/16/98	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**1-3**	**4.75**	**16**	**3**	**0**	**36.0**	**37**	**13**	**26**
						Sacramento (AAA)	4-8	3.86	16	15	0	77.0	64	39	90
66	Kai-Wei Teng	R-R	6-4	241	12/1/98	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**2-4**	**6.37**	**8**	**7**	**0**	**29.2**	**29**	**17**	**39**
						Sacramento (AAA)	3-2	3.63	26	4	2	57.0	42	22	89
	Blade Tidwell	R-R	6-4	207	6/8/01	**NEW YORK NL**	**1-1**	**9.00**	**4**	**2**	**0**	**15.0**	**23**	**10**	**10**
						Syracuse (AAA)	6-4	4.10	17	14	0	79.0	70	32	87
						Sacramento (AAA)	0-0	1.50	4	3	0	18.0	9	5	24
74	Ryan Walker	R-R	6-2	212	11/26/95	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**5-7**	**4.11**	**68**	**0**	**17**	**61.1**	**60**	**18**	**60**
62	Logan Webb	R-R	6-1	223	11/18/96	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**15-11**	**3.22**	**34**	**34**	**0**	**207.0**	**210**	**46**	**224**
88	Carson Whisenhunt	L-L	6-3	214	10/20/00	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**2-1**	**5.01**	**5**	**5**	**0**	**23.1**	**22**	**12**	**16**
						Sacramento (AAA)	9-5	4.43	21	21	0	107.2	112	35	95
67	Keaton Winn	R-R	6-4	233	2/20/98	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**0-0**	**4.50**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**10.0**	**12**	**2**	**9**
						Sacramento (AAA)	1-1	8.49	14	3	0	23.1	34	8	22
						San Jose (A)	1-0	0.00	2	0	0	2.0	1	0	3
						ACL Giants (R)	0-0	9.00	2	1	0	2.0	4	1	1

No.	Catchers	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
14	Patrick Bailey	S-R	6-0	225	5/29/99	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.222**	**135**	**409**	**47**	**91**	**6**	**55**	**30**	**133**	**1**
	Jesus Rodriguez	R-R	5-10	208	4/23/02	Sacramento (AAA)	.322	39	152	21	49	2	16	18	17	4
						Scranton/WB (AAA)	.317	78	309	54	98	5	41	46	55	16
						Somerset (AA)	.107	7	28	1	3	0	2	2	6	1
	Daniel Susac	R-R	6-4	218	5/14/01	Las Vegas (AAA)	.275	97	360	48	99	18	68	35	109	7

No.	Infielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
2	Willy Adames	R-R	6-0	215	9/2/95	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.225**	**160**	**591**	**94**	**133**	**30**	**87**	**80**	**179**	**12**
26	Matt Chapman	R-R	6-1	225	4/28/93	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.231**	**128**	**454**	**76**	**105**	**21**	**61**	**71**	**126**	**9**
16	Rafael Devers	L-R	6-0	235	10/24/96	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.236**	**90**	**335**	**52**	**79**	**20**	**51**	**56**	**116**	**0**
						BOSTON	**.272**	**73**	**272**	**47**	**74**	**15**	**58**	**56**	**76**	**1**
78	Bryce Eldridge	L-R	6-7	240	10/20/04	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.107**	**10**	**28**	**1**	**3**	**0**	**4**	**7**	**13**	**0**
						Sacramento (AAA)	.249	66	253	31	63	18	63	28	88	1
						Richmond (AA)	.280	34	125	14	35	7	20	13	39	0
						ACL Giants (R)	.333	2	6	1	2	0	1	1	0	0
49	Tyler Fitzgerald	R-R	6-2	208	9/15/97	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.217**	**72**	**217**	**19**	**47**	**4**	**14**	**17**	**70**	**9**
						Sacramento (AAA)	.246	54	211	34	52	6	27	17	62	2
50	Christian Koss	R-R	6-1	186	1/27/98	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.264**	**76**	**174**	**25**	**46**	**3**	**23**	**9**	**45**	**4**
						Sacramento (AAA)	.296	6	27	3	8	1	5	0	6	0
						ACL Giants (R)	.667	1	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
10	Casey Schmitt	R-R	6-0	220	3/1/99	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.237**	**95**	**312**	**34**	**74**	**12**	**40**	**27**	**83**	**0**
						Sacramento (AAA)	.154	5	13	3	2	0	0	4	2	0

No.	Outfielders	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	2025 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
59	Jerar Encarnacion	R-R	6-4	260	10/22/97	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.200**	**19**	**55**	**5**	**11**	**2**	**7**	**1**	**15**	**1**
						Sacramento (AAA)	.274	24	84	11	23	4	16	11	27	2
						ACL Giants (R)	.667	2	6	1	4	0	0	0	1	0
61	Drew Gilbert	L-L	5-9	195	9/27/00	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.190**	**39**	**100**	**12**	**19**	**3**	**13**	**7**	**20**	**1**
						Sacramento (AAA)	.500	5	14	3	7	0	2	6	3	2
						Syracuse (AAA)	.243	82	305	45	74	12	47	41	60	4
						St. Lucie (A)	.375	6	24	4	9	2	6	3	3	0
51	Jung Hoo Lee	L-R	6-0	197	8/20/98	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.266**	**150**	**560**	**73**	**149**	**8**	**55**	**47**	**71**	**10**
29	Luis Matos	R-R	5-11	207	1/28/02	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.221**	**57**	**172**	**26**	**38**	**8**	**22**	**11**	**27**	**4**
						Sacramento (AAA)	.293	36	147	25	43	7	29	8	20	6
58	Grant McCray	L-R	6-1	190	12/7/00	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.091**	**22**	**22**	**3**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**11**	**0**
						Sacramento (AAA)	.250	110	444	73	111	15	71	55	138	27
17	Heliot Ramos	R-R	5-11	230	9/7/99	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**.256**	**157**	**620**	**85**	**159**	**21**	**69**	**52**	**158**	**6**

2026 Fantasy Baseball

TOP 100 RANKING

BY RYAN HALLAM

1 SHOHEI OHTANI
SP/DH, LAD

What can't this guy do? In a nutshell, he showed it all in the playoffs last year with a game in which he struck out 10 batters and hit three home runs. He is more of an elite hitter than elite pitcher, but he is great at both. There are few arguments that make any sense against him being the first pick in any draft this year. The only category he doesn't help you with is saves. Barring injury, Ohtani should be otherworldly again.

2 AARON JUDGE
OF, NYY

Health concerns are the only possible knock on Judge – and he has played 150+ games in three of the past four seasons. He is just an absolute beast, as few players hit the ball harder or farther. Not only is he giving you elite power numbers, but he has also hit better than .310 in three of the past four years, and he always scores 120+ runs in his full seasons. No more analysis is necessary: Judge is a top-two player in any fantasy format.

3 BOBBY WITT JR.
SS, KC

Witt took a step back after a near-MVP season in 2024, but he was still All-World in every category. Obviously, for the price that you will have to pay, you'd want the home runs to get back above 30 and the RBIs to get over 90, but it is hard to complain about anything with Witt, who is going to be a monster again in 2026.

SCAN FOR DAILY FANTASY UPDATES AT ATHLONSPORTS.COM

4. JUAN SOTO OF, NYM
He was a little streaky last year, and his first season in Queens got off to a slow start, but Soto was a house afire in both June and the last two months of the year as he went on to post career highs in home runs and stolen bases. It would be a stretch to expect him to get close to the same number of stolen bases, but Soto is a machine.

5. JOSÉ RAMÍREZ 3B, CLE
As if he wasn't already great enough, now Ramírez has topped 40 stolen bases in both of the past two years. The 80-85 RBI totals in two of the past three seasons aren't awesome, but that's more a function of the guys around him than Ramírez not coming through. There is not a single category in which he isn't a beast, and he is an easy first-round fantasy pick again in 2026.

6. TARIK SKUBAL SP, DET
Skubal was just exceptional across the board last season. He logged quality starts in two-thirds of his games, 241 strikeouts, an 0.89 WHIP and a 2.21 ERA. His strikeout-to-walk rate is ridiculous. The only gripe you could possibly have is that his win total wasn't elite. But he gives you everything you can hope for and is the best pitcher in baseball. Even if he is traded, he will go to one of the top teams in the league, which will only help him, and if not, Detroit will compete again this year.

7. ELLY DE LA CRUZ SS, CIN
One of the more exciting players in baseball, De La Cruz hasn't even reached the peak of his production just yet. He played every game last season, and somehow his stolen bases fell from 67 to 37. He really needs to improve his plate discipline, although his batting average isn't a drag. But he could improve his hard-hit rate, and we have to hope that his stolen base numbers will get back above 50. He will be only 24 when the season starts, and he is still worth a major investment on draft day.

8. PAUL SKENES SP, PIT
If he wasn't on the Pirates, he would be at the top of this list. Skenes is a beast on the mound at 6-foot-6 and 235 pounds, and he's magical. He was one K short of having 30 more strikeouts than innings pitched; his ERA was ridiculously under 2.00 for a full season; and his WHIP of 0.95 is something you expect from a video game. Opponents hit just .205 against him, and his FIP was 2.36 last season. If only he could find a way to get a handful more wins, but regardless, Skenes will absolutely help you win leagues.

9. CORBIN CARROLL OF, ARI
His batting average has been all over the map in his career, but it was good to see it bounce back in a major way in 2025. Carroll is a major problem for opponents on the basepaths, and he crossed the 30-home run plateau for the first time in his career last season. He is only 25, and his best years might still be ahead of him. Carroll has a chance to be a five-category asset.

10. JULIO RODRÍGUEZ OF, SEA
At some point in his career, Rodriguez has the chance to be a top-three pick in fantasy baseball. He has already had two 30/30 seasons, and his batting average is more than adequate. He has shown reliability as far as playing the majority of games, and while his home park isn't a bandbox, it isn't the worst place to play. His strikeout-to-walk ratio is still a problem, and that hurts in points leagues where you lose for strikeouts. All told, though, this kid is an absolute stud and has a chance to exceed his draft cost, which is already high.

11. RONALD ACUÑA JR. OF, ATL
If it wasn't for injury concern, Acuña could challenge Ohtani and Judge for the top spot in fantasy baseball. When he is on, there might be no one better. However, he did tear his ACL for the second time in his career, and he didn't exactly light the world on fire upon his return. His draft stock is still incredibly high, and you have to have an incredibly high tolerance for risk, as he has played fewer than 100 games in four of the past six seasons. But if he is able to stay on the field, he is absolutely electrifying and will help you in all five categories.

12. JUNIOR CAMINERO 3B, TB
We knew he was going to be good, but wow, what a season Caminero had in 2025 as he topped 40 home runs and drove in 110 – and he won't turn 23 until July. The only slight knock about Caminero is that his batting average was 100 points higher at tiny Steinbrenner Field than on the road, and the Rays are moving back to Tropicana Field in 2026. However, he had nearly the identical number of home runs both at home and on the road, so we know the power is legit. I get it if you go with a guy with a longer track record over Caminero, but I believe he is going to mash again this year.

13. GARRETT CROCHET SP, BOS
What we saw from Crochet last season is very similar to what we typically get from Skenes, and Crochet is on a better team. There is nothing not to like here. It would be splitting hairs to say he gives up a few more home runs than the guys above him on this list, but Crochet's stuff is absolutely nasty, and he is right there with the top three in almost every statistical category. He led the league in strikeouts and was one behind Max Fried for the wins lead – and are we really going to knock him for a 2.59 ERA? Crochet is a fantastic anchor for your pitching staff.

14. FRANCISCO LINDOR SS, NYM
He is one stolen base in 2024 short of three straight 30/30 seasons, and while the Mets have hemorrhaged offensive players this offseason, that will only make Lindor more important. His batting average isn't amazing, but he walks enough

BRAD PENNER-IMAGN IMAGES; OPPOSITE: KEVIN SOUSA-IMAGN IMAGES

to not hurt you in OBP leagues, and he is two runs away from scoring 100 in four straight seasons. With the lack of talent at shortstop, Lindor is a high-end option at the position.

15. KYLE TUCKER OF, FA

He wasn't terrible in his time with the Cubs last season, but he wasn't a top-15 player. He's always played in a hitter-friendly home ballpark, but Tucker has exceptional bat control and power. His strikeout-to-walk ratio is elite, and he has the ability to be a 30/30 player in any ballpark. Assuming health, he is a an above-average player in all five offensive categories.

16. YOSHINOBU YAMAMOTO SP, LAD

As if his regular season wasn't good enough, with a 2.49 ERA and 200 strikeouts, Yamamoto was an absolute animal in the postseason. He not only threw two complete games but also got the win and closed out the Blue Jays over 2.2 innings in Game 7 one day after throwing 96 pitches and getting the win in Game 6. He will carry this momentum into 2026. He has a ridiculous repertoire of pitches and could easily be the top fantasy pitcher this year – and you can get him a little later than the rest.

17. GUNNAR HENDERSON SS, BAL

His power production fell off a cliff last year, but that was par for the course for Baltimore in general. This stud didn't forget how to hit, and he should be available at a decent discount after the disappointment of 2025. His ground ball rate went up and his barrel rate went down, but his hard-hit rate was still very solid. Everything went wrong with the Orioles in 2025, but this kid still has elite talent, is only 24 and stole a career-high 30 bases. Buy the dip big time with him for the upcoming year.

18. LOGAN GILBERT SP, SEA

It was a bit of a roller-coaster season for Gilbert, but outside of a dreadful June coming back from injury, he was lights out, and at 27, he could get better. Gilbert has four strikeout pitches, and his swinging-strike rate is top-notch. He has been durable throughout his career outside of that elbow malady last season, and the Mariners appear to be a team that should help him rack up some wins. He does give up a few too many home runs (20 in 131 innings in 2025), but Gilbert is a bulldog who can give you near-elite production in the categories that score in fantasy baseball.

JOHN JONES-IMAGN IMAGES

19. PETE ALONSO 1B, BAL

The Polar Bear fled the Big Apple, where he was having quite the prolific career power-wise, and now lands in Baltimore, where he will hit in the middle of a pretty powerful lineup. The best part of 2025 for Alonso was that he raised his batting average by 30 points and got back to where he had been in his fantasy heyday. He had the best barrel rate of any first baseman, and his hard-hit rate was nearly 55%. Throw in a great launch angle and there's no doubt that Alonso is going to mash in his new home.

20. FERNANDO TATIS JR. OF, SD

He hasn't been able to replicate his 40-home run season of 2021, but Tatis is still a very strong contributor with the ability to pop off in a huge way. The raw ability is absolutely there to be a 30/30 guy on a consistent basis, but he has struggled to top 25 home runs since his career-high season. Tatis is just 27 years old and is about to enter his prime, and he has already shown what he is capable of. Taking him here is a little leap of faith that he will improve his recent output, but he absolutely helps you in every category.

21. CAL RALEIGH C, SEA

It was a historical and near-MVP season for Big Dumper, and while there is sure to be plenty of regression in the home run category, he likely will still give you more than anyone else at the position. The batting average won't be great, but it isn't so dreadful that it is hurting you. The fact that you are likely to get double-digit stolen bases is just more of a bonus. Even if he loses a third of his home runs, he still would have 40, and I don't think the regression will hit that hard. Raleigh is still the No. 1 catcher and gives you an advantage at the position that is tough to beat.

22. NICK KURTZ 1B, A's

An easy choice for American League Rookie of the Year, Kurtz took the league by storm, but it wasn't much of a surprise. He buzzed through the minors after crushing in college, and now Kurtz will continue his assault on major league pitching in a very power-friendly ballpark.

23. CRISTOPHER SÁNCHEZ SP, PHI

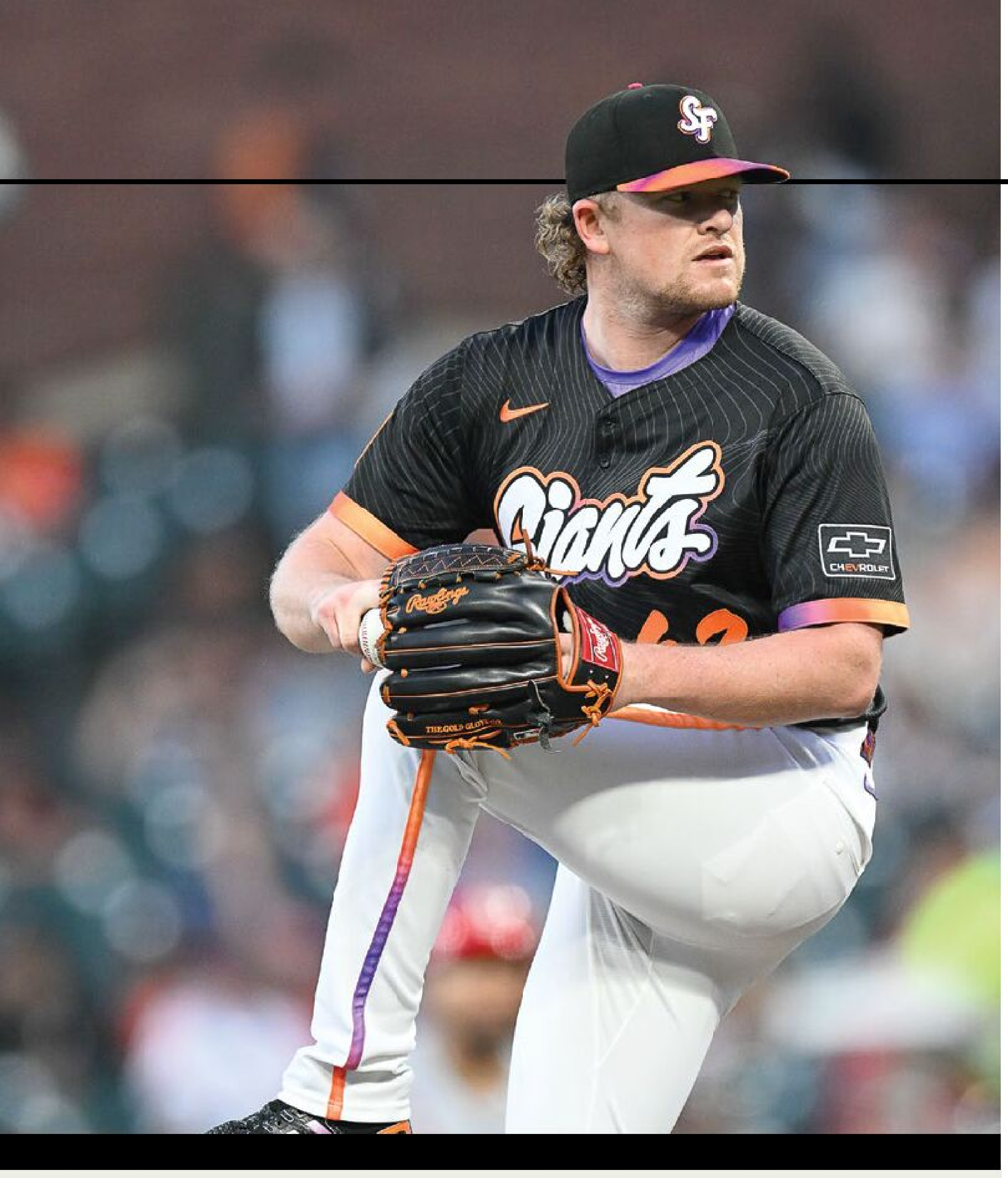
We have watched Sánchez become a star since he showed great promise a couple seasons ago. His breakout last season was somewhat predictable, but I don't know if many guessed how great he would be last year. You would love to see a few more wins on a team as successful as the Phillies, but a 2.50 ERA and 212 strikeouts can help you forget about the 13 wins. There's no reason to think he can't replicate his 2025 success or perhaps get even a little bit better, as the NL East isn't exactly loaded with powerhouse offenses. He just turned 29, is in the prime of his career and is a great foundation for your fantasy pitching staff.

24. VLADIMIR GUERRERO JR. 1B, TOR

His strikeout-to-walk ratio continues to be very impressive, but that doesn't pay the bills in fantasy baseball. Guerrero hit for a very good batting average, but he also had the lowest home run total of his career in a full season and was nowhere near 100 RBIs. Now, we know that he is capable of more because he has done it before, but the precipitous drop-off is cause for concern. He was an absolute beast in the playoffs, though, and we hope that carries over to 2026. He is still one of the best; he has just been passed by a few guys.

25. KETEL MARTE 2B, ARI

He topped 25 home runs for the second consecutive season while scoring nearly 90 runs and keeping his batting average in a very good spot. It is hard to argue that he is the top guy at second base, even if you'd like to see him run more. The plate discipline is elite, and he could give you even more than he did last year.



EAKIN HOWARD-IMAGN IMAGES

26. LOGAN WEBB SP, SF

Webb isn't a sexy name and doesn't jump off the page or blow you away, but he is a workhorse. He's had three straight seasons with 200 innings (and 192 the season before that), and although he was lacking in the strikeout category in recent years compared to the elite, he notched a career-high 224 last season. He keeps the walks down, doesn't give up the long ball and strands runners at a 74.3% clip. He isn't the cream of the crop, but he is a very above-average starting pitcher.

27. EDWIN DÍAZ RP, LAD

The Dodgers have a lot of quality arms in their bullpen, but you don't hand out the kind of cash they did to Díaz without counting on him to close games for them. He had some ups and downs in his tenure with the Mets, but Díaz can be absolutely lethal at times. He puts up huge strikeout numbers, and he should be elite in Los Angeles. He definitely has had some years when he struggled in his career, but when this guy is on, there might be no one better. Put him on the best team in the league, and he should be the first closer off the board.

28. KYLE SCHWARBER OF, PHI

He has been an absolute masher in Philadelphia and just signed a contract to stay there. He absolutely crushed it last season with 56 home runs and 132 RBIs, and while expecting a repeat of those numbers might be a bit of a stretch, he has is a virtual lock for 40-45 long balls. He strikes out a ton, but he also walks at a great clip, too, so his batting eye almost turns out to be a wash. His batting average is a bit of a drain, but few guys give you as much in the power department, and that has made Schwarber a very valuable option in any style of fantasy baseball league.

29. JAMES WOOD OF, WAS

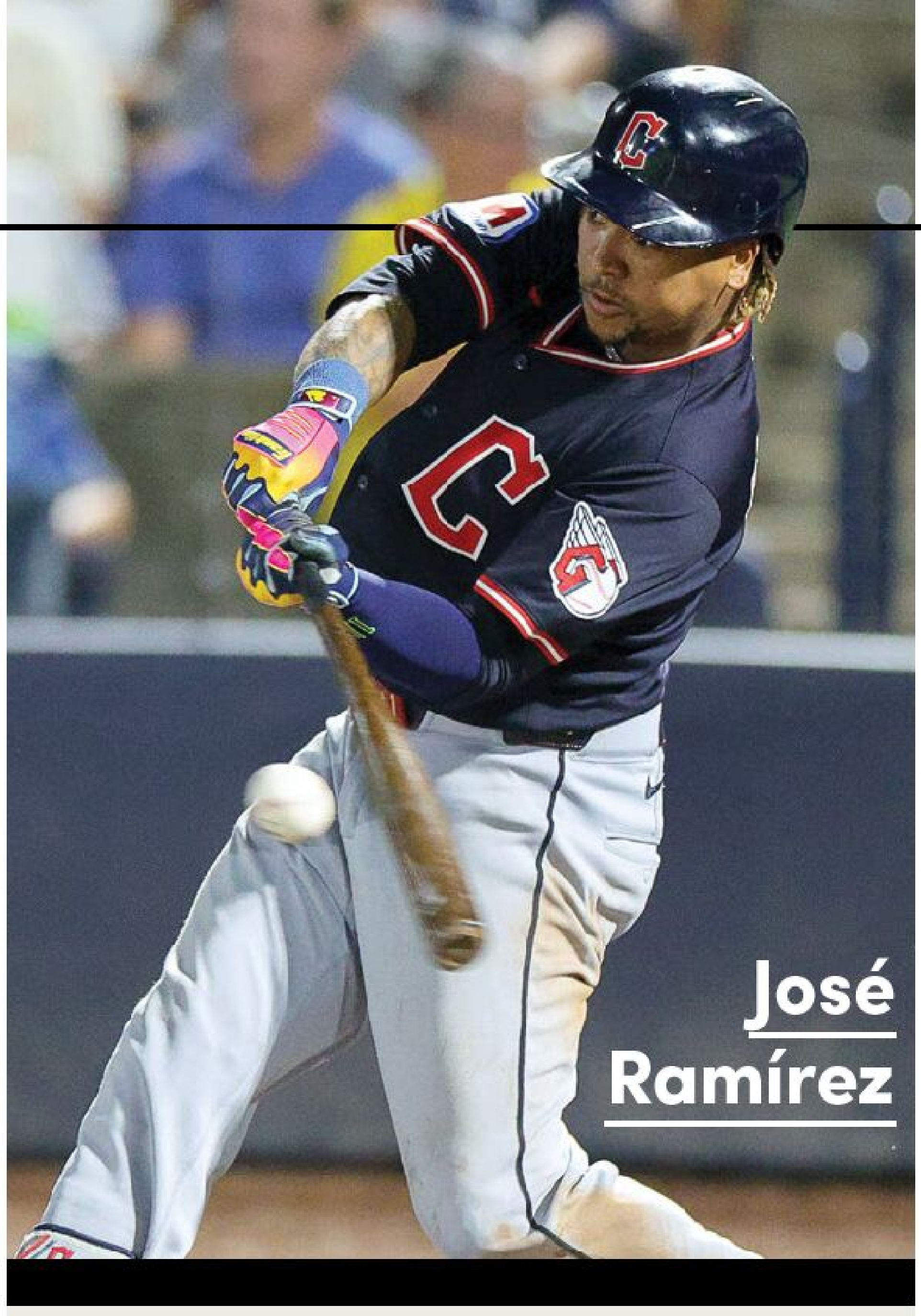
He is just 23 and took the league by storm last season with an elite hard-hit rate and massive numbers across the board. Wood did strike out at an alarming rate in 2025, but his batting average was still good enough, especially for a guy who went 30/15 on a pretty terrible team. He threw in enough walks not to be a drain in OBP leagues, and his 15 stolen bases were a nice bonus on top of his power production. He is just scratching the surface of what he is capable of, and the sky is the limit for this guy. If he could get any protection anywhere in the Nats lineup, he could see a nice uptick from his already spectacular stats from last season.

30. MAX FRIED SP, NYY

He certainly enjoyed his first season in the Bronx, leading the majors with 19 wins and again showing what he can do when he's healthy. His strikeout numbers aren't bad by any stretch, but they are a full tick below the elite starting pitchers. Opponents hit just .230 against him last year, and he is still on one of the best offensive teams in baseball, so while 19 wins might not be attainable again, 15+ almost seems like a lock, assuming he's healthy.

- ☐ 31. **COLE RAGANS**, SP, KC
- ☐ 32. **RAFAEL DEVERS**, 1B, SF
- ☐ 33. **JAZZ CHISHOLM JR.**, 2B/3B, NYY
- ☐ 34. **MANNY MACHADO**, 3B, SD
- ☐ 35. **BRYAN WOO**, SP, SEA
- ☐ 36. **MASON MILLER**, RP, SD
- ☐ 37. **ANDRÉS MUÑOZ**, RP, SEA
- ☐ 38. **JACKSON CHOURIO**, OF, MIL
- ☐ 39. **BRENT ROOKER**, OF, A's
- ☐ 40. **HUNTER BROWN**, SP, HOU
- ☐ 41. **MATT OLSON**, 1B, ATL
- ☐ 42. **YORDAN ALVAREZ**, OF, HOU
- ☐ 43. **AUSTIN RILEY**, 3B, ATL
- ☐ 44. **FREDDIE FREEMAN**, 1B, LAD
- ☐ 45. **WYATT LANGFORD**, OF, TEX
- ☐ 46. **HUNTER GREENE**, SP, CIN
- ☐ 47. **ALEX BREGMAN**, 3B, CHC
- ☐ 48. **GEORGE KIRBY**, SP, SEA
- ☐ 49. **JOSH HADER**, RP, HOU
- ☐ 50. **P. CROW-ARMSTRONG**, OF, CHC
- ☐ 51. **CHRIS SALE**, SP, ATL
- ☐ 52. **RILEY GREENE**, OF, DET
- ☐ 53. **MOOKIE BETTS**, SS, LAD
- ☐ 54. **TREA TURNER**, SS, PHI
- ☐ 55. **FREDDY PERALTA**, SP, MIL
- ☐ 56. **BRYCE HARPER**, 1B, PHI
- ☐ 57. **JACKSON MERRILL**, OF, SD
- ☐ 58. **COREY SEAGER**, SS, TEX
- ☐ 59. **JACOB DEGROM**, SP, TEX
- ☐ 60. **CODY BELLINGER**, OF, FA
- ☐ 61. **HUNTER GOODMAN**, C, COL
- ☐ 62. **NICK PIVETTA**, SP, SD
- ☐ 63. **EUGENIO SUÁREZ**, 3B, FA
- ☐ 64. **JARREN DURAN**, OF, BOS
- ☐ 65. **AROLDIS CHAPMAN**, RP, BOS
- ☐ 66. **ZACH NETO**, SS, LAA
- ☐ 67. **SEIYA SUZUKI**, OF, CHC
- ☐ 68. **JOE RYAN**, SP, MIN
- ☐ 69. **DYLAN CEASE**, SP, TOR
- ☐ 70. **JOSH NAYLOR**, 1B, SEA
- ☐ 71. **EURY PÉREZ**, SP, MIA
- ☐ 72. **BRICE TURANG**, 2B, MIL
- ☐ 73. **BLAKE SNELL**, SP, LAD
- ☐ 74. **VINNIE PASQUANTINO**, 1B, KC
- ☐ 75. **S. SCHWELLENBACH**, SP, ATL
- ☐ 76. **FRAMBER VALDEZ**, SP, FA
- ☐ 77. **KYLE BRADISH**, SP, BAL
- ☐ 78. **ONEIL CRUZ**, OF, PIT
- ☐ 79. **GEORGE SPRINGER**, OF, TOR
- ☐ 80. **TANNER BIBEE**, SP, CLE
- ☐ 81. **JACOB WILSON**, SS, A's
- ☐ 82. **JHOAN DURAN**, RP, PHI
- ☐ 83. **SALVADOR PEREZ**, C, KC
- ☐ 83. **TEOSCAR HERNÁNDEZ**, OF, LAD
- ☐ 85. **CJ ABRAMS**, SS, WAS
- ☐ 86. **SHOTA IMANAGA**, SP, CHC
- ☐ 87. **NICO HOERNER**, 2B, CHC
- ☐ 88. **TYLER SODERSTROM**, OF, A's
- ☐ 89. **BEN RICE**, 1B, NYY
- ☐ 90. **JEREMY PEÑA**, SS, HOU
- ☐ 91. **ROMAN ANTHONY**, OF, BOS
- ☐ 92. **SHEA LANGELIERS**, C, A's
- ☐ 93. **MICHAEL HARRIS II**, OF, ATL
- ☐ 94. **YANDY DÍAZ**, 1B, TB
- ☐ 95. **JESÚS LUZARDO**, SP, PHI
- ☐ 96. **SONNY GRAY**, SP, BOS
- ☐ 97. **JOSE ALTUVE**, 2B/OF, HOU
- ☐ 98. **JACOB MISIOROWSKI**, SP, MIL
- ☐ 99. **CHRISTIAN YELICH**, OF, MIL
- ☐ 100. **CADE SMITH**, RP, CLE

POSITIONAL RANKINGS



CATCHER

1. Cal Raleigh, SEA
2. Hunter Goodman, COL
3. Shea Langeliers, A's
4. William Contreras, MIL
5. Will Smith, LAD
6. Salvador Perez, KC
7. Adley Rutschman, BAL
8. Yainer Diaz, HOU
9. Agustín Ramírez, MIA
10. Drake Baldwin, ATL
11. Ivan Herrera, STL
12. Francisco Alvarez, NYM
13. Samuel Basallo, BAL
14. Kyle Teel, CWS
15. Carter Jensen, KC

Best of the Rest: Gabriel Moreno (ARI), Dillon Dingler (DET), Austin Wells (NYY), J.T. Realmuto (FA)

SECOND BASE

1. Ketel Marte, ARI
2. Jazz Chisholm Jr., NYY
3. Brice Turang, MIL
4. Nico Hoerner, CHC
5. Jose Altuve, HOU
6. Jackson Holliday, BAL
7. Gleyber Torres, DET
8. Ozzie Albies, ATL
9. Luke Keaschall, MIN
10. Marcus Semien, NYM
11. Brandon Lowe, PIT
12. Brendan Donovan, STL
13. Xavier Edwards, MIA
14. Bryson Stott, PHI
15. Ceddane Rafaela, BOS

Best of the Rest: Jake Cronenworth (SD), Luis García Jr. (WAS), Jorge Polanco (NYM), Matt McLain (CIN)

THIRD BASE

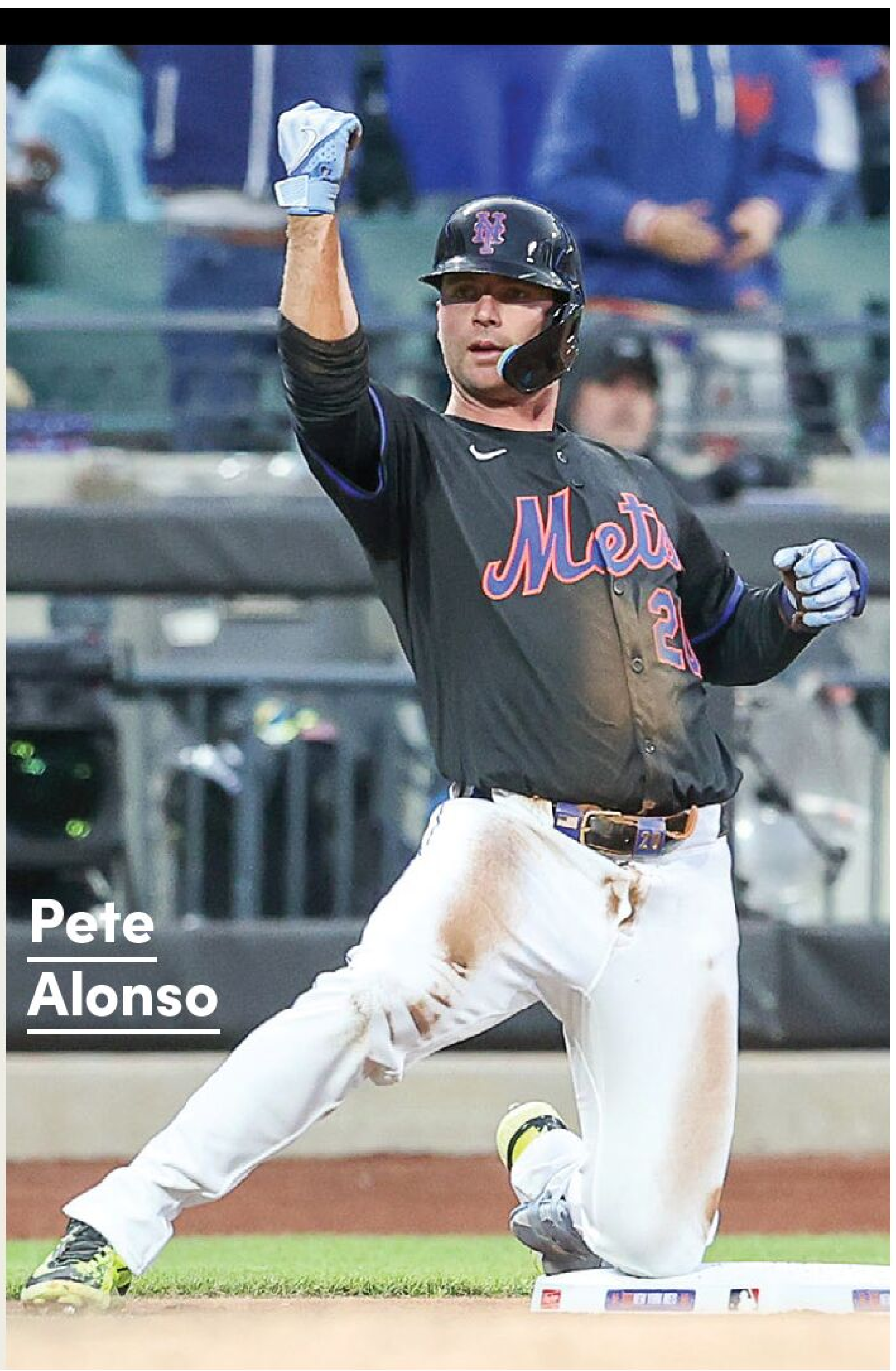
1. José Ramírez, CLE
2. Junior Caminero, TB
3. Manny Machado, SD
4. Austin Riley, ATL
5. Alex Bregman, CHC
6. Eugenio Suárez, FA
7. Matt Chapman, SF
8. Carlos Correa, HOU
9. Maikel Garcia, KC
10. Jordan Westburg, BAL
11. Noelvi Marte, CIN
12. Royce Lewis, MIN
13. Isaac Paredes, HOU
14. Alec Bohm, PHI
15. Max Muncy, LAD

Best of the Rest: Brett Baty (NYM), Nolan Arenado (STL), Addison Barger (TOR)

FIRST BASE

1. Pete Alonso, BAL
2. Nick Kurtz, A's
3. Vladimir Guerrero Jr., TOR
4. Rafael Devers, SF
5. Matt Olson, ATL
6. Freddie Freeman, LAD
7. Bryce Harper, PHI
8. Josh Naylor, SEA
9. Vinnie Pasquantino, KC
10. Ben Rice, NYY
11. Yandy Díaz, TB
12. Spencer Torkelson, DET
13. Mark Vientos, NYM
14. Michael Busch, CHC
15. Kyle Manzardo, CLE

Best of the Rest: Christian Walker (HOU), Spencer Steer (CIN), Willson Contreras (BOS), Luis Arraez (FA)



SHORTSTOP

1. Bobby Witt Jr., KC
2. Elly De La Cruz, CIN
3. Francisco Lindor, NYM
4. Gunnar Henderson, BAL
5. Trea Turner, PHI
6. Mookie Betts, LAD
7. Corey Seager, TEX
8. Zach Neto, LAA
9. Jacob Wilson, A's
10. CJ Abrams, WAS
11. Jeremy Peña, HOU
12. Willy Adames, SF
13. Bo Bichette, FA
14. Geraldo Perdomo, ARI
15. Masyn Winn, STL

Best of the Rest: Colson Montgomery (CWS), Brooks Lee (MIN), J.P. Crawford (SEA), Trevor Story (BOS)

FROM LEFT: VINCENT CARCHIETTA-IMAGN IMAGES; NATHAN RAY SEEBECK-IMAGN IMAGES

OUTFIELD

1. Aaron Judge, NYY
2. Juan Soto, NYM
3. Corbin Carroll, ARI
4. Julio Rodríguez, SEA
5. Ronald Acuña Jr., ATL
6. Kyle Tucker, FA
7. Fernando Tatís Jr., SD
8. Kyle Schwarber, PHI
9. James Wood, WAS
10. Jackson Chourio, MIL
11. Brent Rooker, A's
12. Yordan Alvarez, HOU
13. Wyatt Langford, TEX
14. Riley Greene, DET
15. P. Crow-Armstrong, CHC
16. Jackson Merrill, SD
17. Cody Bellinger, FA
18. Jarren Duran, BOS
19. Seiya Suzuki, CHC
20. Oneil Cruz, PIT
21. George Springer, TOR
22. Teoscar Hernández, LAD
23. Tyler Soderstrom, A's
24. Roman Anthony, BOS
25. Michael Harris II, ATL
26. Christian Yelich, MIL
27. Byron Buxton, MIN
28. Taylor Ward, BAL
29. Luis Robert Jr., CWS
30. Randy Arozarena, SEA
31. Brandon Nimmo, TEX
32. Jakob Marsee, MIA
33. Ian Happ, CHC
34. Lawrence Butler, A's
35. Jurickson Profar, ATL
36. Kyle Stowers, MIA
37. Andy Pages, LAD
38. Steven Kwan, CLE
39. Jo Adell, LAA
40. Dylan Crews, WAS
41. Bryan Reynolds, PIT
42. Brenton Doyle, COL
43. Sal Frelick, MIL
44. Trent Grisham, NYY
45. Alec Burleson, STL
46. Jac Caglinone, KC
47. Jasson Domínguez, NYY
48. TJ Friedl, CIN
49. Anthony Santander, TOR
50. Mike Trout, LAA

STARTING PITCHERS

1. Tarik Skubal, DET
2. Shohei Ohtani, LAD
3. Paul Skenes, PIT
4. Garrett Crochet, BOS
5. Yoshinobu Yamamoto, LAD
6. Logan Gilbert, SEA
7. Cristopher Sánchez, PHI
8. Logan Webb, SF
9. Max Fried, NYY
10. Cole Ragans, KC
11. Bryan Woo, SEA
12. Hunter Brown, HOU
13. Hunter Greene, CIN
14. George Kirby, SEA
15. Chris Sale, ATL
16. Freddy Peralta, MIL
17. Jacob deGrom, TEX
18. Nick Pivetta, SD
19. Joe Ryan, MIN
20. Eury Pérez, MIA
21. Blake Snell, LAD
22. S. Schwellenbach, ATL
23. Framber Valdez, FA
24. Kyle Bradish, BAL
25. Tanner Bibee, CLE
26. Shota Imanaga, CHC
27. Jesús Luzardo, PHI
28. Jacob Misiorowski, MIL
29. Dylan Cease, TOR
30. Shane Bieber, TOR
31. Gavin Williams, CLE
32. Kevin Gausman, TOR
33. Spencer Strider, ATL
34. Sonny Gray, BOS
35. Pablo López, MIN
36. Nolan McLean, NYM
37. Zack Wheeler, PHI
38. Chase Burns, CIN
39. Luis Castillo, SEA
40. Nathan Eovaldi, TEX
41. Tyler Glasnow, LAD
42. Brandon Woodruff, MIL
43. Sandy Alcantara, MIA
44. Michael King, SD
45. Robbie Ray, SF
46. Merrill Kelly, ARI
47. MacKenzie Gore, WAS
48. Trevor Rogers, BAL
49. Cam Schlitter, NYY
50. Trey Yesavage, TOR

Aaron Judge

Tarik Skubal

FROM LEFT: BRAD PENNER-IMAGN IMAGES; STEVEN BISIG-IMAGN IMAGES

RELIEF PITCHERS

1. Edwin Díaz, LAD
2. Mason Miller, SD
3. Andrés Muñoz, SEA
4. Josh Hader, HOU
5. Aroldis Chapman, BOS
6. Jhoan Duran, PHI
7. Devin Williams, NYM
8. Cade Smith, CLE
9. David Bednar, NYY
10. Jeff Hoffman, TOR
11. Carlos Estévez, KC
12. Trevor Megill, MIL
13. Robert Suarez, ATL
14. Ryan Helsley, BAL
15. Daniel Palencia, CHC
16. Pete Fairbanks, MIA
17. Kenley Jansen, DET
18. Dennis Santana, PIT
19. Ryan Walker, SF
20. Emilio Pagán, CIN
21. Griffin Jax, TB
22. Abner Uribe, MIL
23. JoJo Romero, STL
24. Hogan Harris, A's
25. Luke Weaver, NYM
26. Will Vest, DET
27. Gregory Soto, PIT
28. Bryan Abreu, HOU
29. Matt Brash, SEA
30. Raisel Iglesias, ATL

PROSPECTING TALENT

By Ed Bunnell

The 2026 fantasy baseball draft season is here, and experienced managers are looking at the next group of rookies that MLB teams will be calling up to help win championships. We saw the production from players like Roman Anthony and Nick Kurtz last season, so here are 30 players being drafted now in 12-team leagues who managers hope will have a similar impact on their rosters.

TOP PITCHING PROSPECTS WITH ACE POTENTIAL

NOLAN McLEAN, NYM (ADP 113)
Was a former two-way player in college, nicknamed "Cowboy Ohtani" at Oklahoma State. Features a dynamic pitch mix that produces high whiff and K%. Had a stellar late '25 MLB debut (48 IP, 2.06 ERA, 30% K rate, 60% GB rate) and is locked into the Mets' rotation.

TREY YESAVAGE, TOR (149)
Stormed onto the scene at the end of last season and was a massive contributor in the Blue Jays' run to the World Series. Has electric stuff that misses bats. The hype is real, but don't get caught paying up for playoff heroics.

BUBBA CHANDLER, PIT (167) Has the highest upside among pitching prospects. Big velo and wipeout slider produce huge K%. The Pirates have some terrifying arms to surround Paul Skenes, and Bubba gives them an additional SP1 type in the rotation. Look for his ADP to skyrocket once spring training starts.

CONNELLY EARLY, BOS (223) Made a great case for a '26 rotation spot after dominating in late-season call-up starts. Features six pitches and + command, creating weak contact. Projects for SP2. Another one who has a lot of helium potential once spring starts.

TATSUYA IMAI, HOU (154) Imai's three-year deal with Houston gives him a mid-rotation spot on a contending team. He has high-K stuff, and while there are still risks in transitioning to MLB, a strong Astros lineup helps ratios, making him a good SP3/4 value in the middle rounds.

PREMIER HITTING PROSPECTS FOR IMMEDIATE IMPACT

MUNETAKA MURAKAMI, 1B, CWS (178) The most hyped NPB hitter to come to MLB since Ohtani, and it's all due to his power. Has all of the advanced metrics (elite exit velo), motivation (short-term deal) and youth (just 26) to put together monster seasons.

SAMUEL BASALLO, C, BAL (183) Has big-time power potential (30+ HR) at a scarce position, which we know drives players into earlier rounds. He can hit from both sides and has a .300+ average projection. He's ready to bat every day.

CARTER JENSEN, C, KC (236) A breakout target. His raw power, hard contact (95+ mph EV) and patient approach suggest that he will be a solid option at the position. His ability to run a bit will drive value in Roto formats.

KAZUMA OKAMOTO, 3B, TOR (288) Okamoto's four-year, $60 million deal with Toronto puts him at 3B/1B in a strong lineup. He hopes to hit 25-35 home runs and drive in 85-95 runs with the help of the park. Plate discipline will help with the transition.

INFIELD AND OUTFIELD SLEEPERS WITH TOOLS

SAL STEWART, 1B/3B, CIN (224) Dominated the minors (.309/20 HR/17 SB) and impressed in his September MLB debut. His elite contact, emerging power, sneaky speed and half his games at hitter-friendly Great American Ball Park make him a great target.

KONNOR GRIFFIN, SS, PIT (289) Has a 6-foot-4, 225-pound body and is known for his incredible speed, athleticism and physicality. He looks like a prototype superstar with the ability to play any position, but the Pirates really need him at SS.

JJ WETHERHOLT, SS, STL (291) A high-contact left-handed hitter with solid power potential. Like Kevin McGonigle, he can play anywhere in the infield and is listed as SS, but he will easily slide to 2B or 3B if STL needs him there.

DYLAN BEAVERS, OF, BAL (280) Has 20/20 upside and is a contender for AL ROY. He can play anywhere thanks to his speed but will likely play LF in BAL. Has good plate discipline but sometimes looks hesitant to pull the trigger.

CHASE DeLAUTER, OF, CLE (333) Has 30/15 upside and AL ROY potential, but has been an injury magnet over his first three years. His elite contact (81% rate), hard-hit ability (52%) and developing power equal an everyday role in a weak CLE OF.

VINCENT CARCHIETTA-IMAGN IMAGES

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KEVIN McGONIGLE, 2B, DET (297) As MLB's No. 2 overall prospect, and a player considered to be the best pure hitter in MiLB, McGonigle is poised to lock down a spot with the Tigers this spring. The left-handed hitter features elite contact skills, more power than you would expect from his size and a great understanding of the zone.

BRYCE ELDRIDGE, 1B, SF (338) A massive human at 6-foot-7 and, as you would expect, possessing elite power with metrics in the 99th percentile for avg exit velo (95.6), barrel% (25%), and hard-hit% (68.8%). If he can limit his K rate, he'll be a big part of the Giants this year.

JUSTIN CRAWFORD, OF, PHI (380) An elite speed demon, stealing 40+ bags in each of the past three years, and could easily get 50+ with the Phillies. He makes excellent contact but is still figuring out how to get the ball in the air.

WALKER JENKINS, OF, MIN (434) An intriguing player, but likely not more than a flier at the end of the draft this year. He does have five-tool upside and an approach that signals continuing success in The Show.

OWEN CAISSIE, OF, CHC (427) Has the potential to hit 30+ HR. The 6-foot-4 lefty masher impressed in Triple-A in 2025 (.286/.386/.551, 22 HR, .937 OPS).

CARSON WILLIAMS, SS, TB (424) The Rays' top shortstop prospect with solid all-around upside. After a strong 2025 Triple-A season (.213/.318/.447, 23 HR, 22 SB in 108 games), he projects for an everyday role in 2026.

SPENCER JONES, OF, NYY (448) The Yankees' long-hyped outfielder finally gets his chance to prove it's real. After a breakout last year (.274/.362/.571, 35 HR, 29 SB across Double-A and Triple-A), the 6-foot-7 lefty is worth a stash to see if the tools translate.

MORE ARMS AND CATCHERS FOR DEPTH

LOGAN HENDERSON, RHP, MIL (301) His 93-96 mph fastball, plus changeup and excellent command project solid ratios, 150+ Ks in 160+ IP. He's worth stashing at his current depressed ADP for reliable SP depth with breakout appeal.

PARKER MESSICK, LHP, CLE (308) His plus changeup, strike-throwing ability and locked rotation spot project solid ratios, 150+ Ks in 160+ IP.

PAYTON TOLLE, RHP, BOS (341) A big, hard-throwing lefty with frontline starter potential who dominated in the minors (3.04 ERA, 0.99 WHIP, 133 K in 91.2 IP) and a late-2025 MLB debut while retaining rookie eligibility.

ANDREW PAINTER, RHP, PHI (353) Had Tommy John in '23, and his numbers from last year don't provide much promise for success in '26. But typically, form returns in the second year following TJ.

RHETT LOWDER, RHP, CIN, (441) He has a four-pitch repertoire, each with various speeds that make it tough for batters to time up. The Reds will be watching him closely in the spring, and if things go well, he might break camp.

ROBBY SNELLING, LHP, MIA, (377) Snelling is a rebounding lefthander with mid-rotation potential. His improved velocity, plus changeup/slider and strong command project solid ratios, 150+ Ks in 160+ IP in a likely rotation spot.

THOMAS WHITE, LHP, MIA, (447) The Marlins' top prospect had a breakout 2025 across High-A, Double-A and Triple-A (2.31 ERA, 1.18 WHIP, 145 K in 89.2 IP). His 93-97 mph fastball, plus plus sweeper and improving changeup project strong ratios.

JOE MACK, C, MIA, (442) Miami's top-rated catching prospect had a solid minors season (.257/.338/.475, 21 HR, 9 SB in 125 games across Double- and Triple-A). Projects for 20+ HR power.

HARRY FORD, C, WAS (451) An elite defender with plus speed, plate discipline and emerging power projecting 20/20 upside. If realized, those numbers are pure fantasy gold, especially for a late-round pick.

RANKING & ADP (12-TEAM LEAGUE)

113	**NOLAN McLEAN,** SP, NYM
149	**TREY YESAVAGE,** SP, TOR
154	**TATSUYA IMAI,** SP, HOU
167	**BUBBA CHANDLER,** SP, PIT
178	**MUNETAKA MURAKAMI,** 1B, CWS
183	**SAMUEL BASALLO,** C, BAL
223	**CONNELLY EARLY,** SP, BOS
224	**SAL STEWART,** 1B/3B, CIN
236	**CARTER JENSEN,** C, KC
280	**DYLAN BEAVERS,** OF, BAL
288	**KAZUMA OKAMOTO,** 3B, TOR
289	**KONNOR GRIFFIN,** SS, PIT
291	**JJ WETHERHOLT,** SS, STL
297	**KEVIN McGONIGLE,** 2B, DET
297	**JONAH TONG,** SP, NYM
301	**LOGAN HENDERSON,** SP, MIL
308	**PARKER MESSICK,** SP, CLE
333	**CHASE DeLAUTER,** OF, CLE
338	**BRYCE ELDRIDGE,** 1B, SF
341	**PAYTON TOLLE,** SP, BOS
353	**ANDREW PAINTER,** SP, PHI
360	**MOISÉS BALLESTEROS,** DH, CHC
377	**ROBBY SNELLING,** SP, MIA
380	**JUSTIN CRAWFORD,** OF, PHI
405	**TRAVIS BAZZANA,** 2B, CLE
424	**CARSON WILLIAMS,** SS, TB
427	**OWEN CAISSIE,** OF, CHC
434	**WALKER JENKINS,** OF, MIN
441	**RHETT LOWDER,** SP, CIN
442	**JOE MACK,** C, MIA
447	**THOMAS WHITE,** SP, MIA
448	**SPENCER JONES,** OF, NYY
451	**HARRY FORD,** C, WAS

WIN YOUR FANTASY BASEBALL LEAGUE

A GUIDE TO THE SMART SYSTEM AND THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

By Rick Wolf, Fantasy Writers Hall of Fame

> "What Jefferson was saying was, 'Hey! We left this England place 'cause it was bogus; so if we don't get some cool rules ourselves — pronto — we'll be totally bogus too!'"
>
> — JEFF SPICOLI, *FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH*

WHAT IS THE SMART SYSTEM?

The SMART System is a disciplined team-building and roster-management strategy developed by Glenn Colton and me in 2002, helping us win numerous expert league championships in fantasy baseball over the last 20+ years.

SMART is an acronym for Scarcity, Management, Anchor, Relief and Team. Fantasy baseball players at all levels can use this to make the draft less stressful, the in-season play more exciting and the winning more frequent.

Its origin is funny. In 2002, preparing for the League of Alternative Baseball Reality (LABR), Glenn and I created a set of rules to compete with baseball writers and pundits who spent every waking hour studying baseball. "It's a game. It is supposed to be fun," I said.

We agreed that winning is way more fun.

We needed rules. What to call our system and rules?

We needed an acronym. Acronyms are DUMB, so we called it "SMART." Since Glenn and I started our friendship around the time of the movie "Top Gun," we added "The Rules of Engagement." Nine of them for nine innings.

The SMART system is just one system. Feel free to define your own rules. These rules work for us to post top finishes every year.

S = SCARCITY

Each year, different positions are scarce in different formats. Identify those scarce positions and adjust the prices for quality players at those scarce positions. By successfully rostering a top producer at a scarce position, you gain an advantage over your opponents and avoid scouring the waiver wire trying to find someone to give you any stats at a weak position. Scarcity also pertains to statistical categories. With the lowest counting number category being saves, collecting a guaranteed closer in your draft is critical, for example.

M = MANAGEMENT

Management means managing the draft and the entire season. In the draft, it means religiously following the SMART system and the Rules of Engagement. Make a plan and multiple contingency plans. Make reasonable plans, and one of them will succeed.

Management in-season means watching all the news and not being afraid to make any move that improves your team. Track prospects. Spot playing time changes. Identify spot starters on good teams versus bad teams. Watch who your competitors cut and see if metrics predict a rebound.

A = ANCHORS

Before your draft, identify and target specific starting pitchers who give you production in the four non-save categories. Do not invest too much in pitchers who have done it only once, or worse, not at all.

R = RELIEVERS

Get a steady, top-flight closer who throws hard on a good team. Make sure that you have at least two other relief pitchers who get saves or are second in line on teams with shaky closers.

T = TEAM

A critical part of the SMART system is to select players from better teams. Good teams score more runs, making it easier for hitters to get RBIs/runs. Good teams get more wins/saves. Plus, players on good teams do not get traded to be backups or setup men mid-season.

THE SMART SYSTEM: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

ELIMINATING OR DISCOUNTING PLAYERS

These rules help you pare down the number of players you have to analyze in a given year. No rule is absolute, but these help you stay focused and make good decisions at the draft and all year long.

SCAN FOR DAILY FANTASY UPDATES AT **ATHLONSPORTS.COM**

RULE 1: AGE MATTERS

When looking at your big-money selections, pay for prime players with a proven track record. Players without a track record may produce full value, but why risk it? In general, when players reach 32, they stop stealing bases and hit fewer home runs. Father Time is undefeated.

When targeting power hitters, players who turn 25 or 26 in this upcoming season tend to have the largest jump in home runs from the previous year. Look for the players turning 25 or 26 this year who have had good home run numbers. Their numbers are going up.

For your mid-range investments, focus on young players with decent baselines and more than 1,000 ABs or 150 IP but have yet to reach full potential. Those players made the majors at a young age precisely because they are talented. Once they have the experience to go with that talent, they break out.

RULE 2: INJURIES MATTER

Don't invest heavily in players who have undergone offseason surgery or who are often injured. Predicted medical recoveries do not always go according to plan. Players who get hurt tend to get hurt again. Period. Note, this rule does not say not to draft such players at all. Do not pay full price. A good measure is to get a 15-20% discount, so a $30 healthy value player can be rostered for $24, and that represents the risk.

RULE 3: FREE AGENT SIGNINGS MATTER

Don't pay big bucks for free agents who signed big contracts to play in a new city. Adjustments (new city, new teammates, new place to live, etc.) take a couple of months, and as a result, year-long stats suffer. In 2024, Alex Bregman signed a three-year, $120M deal with the Red Sox. He hit only 18 home runs after hitting more than 24 each of the previous three years. That represents about 25% downswing, so it fits that there should be a discount needed to roster a player like that. In a study, 68% of such players had worse first-year stats then their previous season by more than 10%.

RULE 4: VELOCITY MATTERS

Don't invest anything but late-round picks or small dollars in Kyle Hendricks-type soft throwers. Hard throwers are more consistent roto performers and easier to track. Plus, K's come from hard throwers with late movement.

RULE 5: UPSIDE MATTERS

All late-round picks and low-dollar-amount picks should be those with upside and not aging veterans. Last year, we took shots on Nick Kurtz and Bubba Chandler. One worked and one didn't. The one that did work out makes up for all of your last five picks. Take SHOTS!

RULE 6: HYPE MATTERS

Don't pay full value for predicted but not yet realized upside. Do pay for baseline performance with the indicators of a breakout. Projections are inherently flawed, so don't pay for a player's projection. Pay for his floor when the likelihood of getting a lot more is there.

RULE 7: RATIO PROTECTION MATTERS

In the ratio categories (batting average, WHIP, ERA, etc.), do not take any players at high values who cripple your ratios. There is always another player there. You need to be sure to protect these areas.

RULE 8: HOME BALLPARK MATTERS

You need to get a discount on Rockies, Athletics, and Orioles pitchers and Padres hitters. Look at Ballpark Ratings for other examples.

RULE 9: SPEED MATTERS

It is better to fill your roster with players who get some stolen bases so you have a balanced approach. With the rapidly increasing levels of steals in the majors, you need to get steals out of just about every player on your roster. Well, except second catcher.

CONCLUSION

STRUCTURED STRATEGY BEATS RANDOM DRAFTING

The SMART system and the Rules of Engagement do not guarantee you a fantasy baseball title. What they do is provide critical structure to your draft preparation, drafting, trading and in-season management. What the SMART system and Rules of Engagement do is give you the best chance to be talking trash this October!

OLD FACES IN NEW PLACES

By Mike Murphy

KELLEY L COX-IMAGN IMAGES

FAMILIAR PLAYERS WITH NEW TEAMS

Several variables can affect a player's performance from one year to another, with one of the biggest being a change in teams. A new team comes with a new city, home ballpark, teammates, coaches, lineups and expectations. That's especially true in the case of free agency, where new contracts need to be lived up to and a player may have the pressure of proving he made the right choice. How these players adapt (or don't) can completely shift a fantasy season. Here's a look at the top free agents who chose a new home and whether this is good (up arrow) or bad (down arrow) for their 2025 outlook.

DYLAN CEASE, SP
SD → TOR, 7-YR, $210M ↑

Cease's surface-level numbers were rough in 2025, but his new environment and underlying metrics show he's in line for a much better '26. A respectable 3.56 FIP, career-second-best 11.52 K/9, increased velo and leveling out of his contact percentages were undone by an egregious .320 BABIP, creating an inflated 4.55 ERA. Translation: Cease got super unlucky. Joining the Blue Jays' fourth-ranked defense in DRS and top-five offense that plays in a division with less homer-friendly parks, Cease will be a solid SP1 as his W/ERA/WHIP level out to pair with elite K numbers.

PETE ALONSO, 1B
NYM → BAL, 5-YR, $155M ↑

On the surface, no longer hitting behind Juan Soto and Francisco Lindor should be a downgrade for Alonso. But that outlook would be disrespectful to the youth potential of the Orioles lineup, headlined by SS Gunnar Henderson, 2B Jackson Holliday and the team's addition of LF Taylor Ward for some power reinforcement behind Alonso. Camden Yards is also a better park fit for the first baseman's swing than Citi Field. Alonso can be safely drafted yet again as one of fantasy's best corner infielders.

EDWIN DÍAZ, RP
NYM → LAD, 3-YR, $69M ↑

The best closer in the game going to the best team in the league that just proved itself as MLB's newest dynasty? Yeah, this is a massive fantasy win. Díaz goes from the 15th-ranked defense in DRS to the third-best and moves to a division that is statistically worse on the whole in wOBA and wRC+. He'll also go from the league's fifth-best offense in those categories to the second-best. Draft Díaz as the RP1, if you can.

ROBERT SUAREZ, RP
SD → ATL, 3-YR, $45M ↓

This signing is great for Suarez, but a worst-case scenario for 2026 Suarez fantasy owners. The shutdown reliever, who secured 76 SV over the past two seasons with the Padres, is now the setup man for entrenched Braves closer Raisel Iglesias. Suarez's other categories will stay elite, and he is the long-term closer plan for the Braves (Iglesias' new contract is for just one year), but it's that severe cutback in the most crucial category for relievers that makes this deal sting so much for redraft leagues.

MUNETAKA MURAKAMI, 1B
NPB → CWS, 2-YR, $34M ↓

Coming from NPB with absurd power, Murakami was thought to land a big deal with a contender, where its lineup would protect him as he adjusts. He won't get that with the White Sox, but he will get a good spot in the lineup to produce and prove doubters wrong. Murakami brings high HR/RBI upside, but his equally high K% in Japan and lack of speed means those who take a chance on him must shore up AVG/SB/R elsewhere.

OTHER OLD FACES IN NEW PLACES

ALEX BREGMAN, 3B
BOS → CHC, 5-yr, $175M ↑

DEVIN WILLIAMS, RP
NYY → NYM, 3-yr, $51M ↑

MERRILL KELLY, SP
TEX → ARI, 2-yr, $40M ↓

PETE FAIRBANKS, RP
TB → MIA, 1-yr, $13M ↑

KENLEY JANSEN, RP
LAA → DET, 1-yr, $11M ↑

RYAN HELSLEY, RP
NYM → BAL, 2-yr, $28M ↑

RYAN O'HEARN, 1B
SD → PIT, 2-yr, $29M ↓

LUKE WEAVER, RP
NYY → NYM, 2-yr, $22M ↑

JORGE POLANCO, 2B
SEA → NYM, 2-yr, $40M ↑

DANNY JANSEN, C
MIL → TEX, 2-yr, $14.5M ↓

GREGORY SOTO, RP
NYM → PIT, 1-yr, $7.75M ↑

CALEB FERGUSON, RP
PIT → CIN, 1-yr, $4.5M ↓

TYLER ROGERS, RP
NYM → TOR, 3-yr, $37M ↑

SHAWN ARMSTRONG, RP
TEX → CLE, 1-yr, $5.5M ↑

CEDRIC MULLINS, CF
NYM → TB, 1-yr, $7M ↓

ADOLIS GARCÍA, RF
TEX → PHI, 1-yr, $10M ↑

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CALLING ALL WHISKEY LOVERS

From bourbon to Scotch to Japanese whisky, it's a spirited world—and it keeps getting bigger. Whether you're just a burgeoning fan or have a well-stocked bar, ***Men's Journal*** is here to help you find your perfect dram.

We've launched our own curated **Whiskey Shop**, which features everything from everyday pours to exclusive single barrels.

Sign up for our Whiskey Wednesday newsletter for updates—and to receive our experts' favorite new bottles to buy, the classics we're obsessing over, and the underrated releases to check out.

MEN'S JOURNAL

CHEERS!